```
from a s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   mine, which I have communicated to him without disguise. He en
  pathy which he evinced to use the language of my heart, to give utterance to the burning ardour o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     my soul and to say, with all the fervour that warmed me, how
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        al foes of our race. As I spoke, a dark gloom spread over my
istener's countenance. At first I perceived that he tried to suppress his emotion; he placed his hand
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ore his eyes, and my voice quivered and failed me as I behel
d tears trickle fast from between his fingers; a groan burst from his heaving breast. I paused; at leng
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         he spoke, in broken accents: "Unhappy man! Do you share
my madness? Have you drunk also of the intoxicating draught? Hear me; let me reveal my tale, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          will dash the cup from your lips!" Such words, you may im
                                                                                                                                                         yo u
agine, strongly excited my curiosity; but the paroxysm of grief that had seized the stranger overcam
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       his weakened powers, and many hours of repose and tranquil
conversation were necessary to restore his composure. Having conquered the violence of his feeli
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               gs, he appeared to despise himself for being the slave of passion; a
nd quelling the dark tyranny of despair, he led me again to converse concerning myself personally
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              He asked me the history of my earlier years. The tale was quickly tol
d, but it awakened various trains of reflection. I spoke of my desire of finding a friend, of my thirst f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              a more intimate sympathy with a fellow mind than had ever fallen to
my lot, and expressed my conviction that a man could boast of little happiness who did not enjoy
                                                                                                                                                      th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              s blessing. "I agree with you," replied the stranger; "we are unfashio
ned creatures, but half made up, if one wiser, better, dearer than ourselves--such  a friend ought
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               be--do not lend his aid to perfectionate our weak and faulty natures.
                                                                                                                                                      to
once had a friend, the most noble of human creatures, and am entitled, therefore, to judge re
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ecting friendship. You have hope, and the world before you, and have
no cause for despair. But I--I have lost everything and cannot begin life anew." As he said this
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           is countenance became expressive of a calm, settled grief that touched
me to the heart. But he was silent and presently retired to his cabin. Even broken in spirit as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e is, no one can feel more deeply than he does the beauties of nature.
The starry sky, the sea, and every sight afforded by these wonderful regions seem still to h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ve the power of elevating his soul from earth. Such a man has a doubl
e existence: he may suffer misery and be overwhelmed by disappointments, yet when h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           has retired into himself, he will be like a celestial spirit that has a halo a
round him, within whose circle no grief or folly ventures. Will you smile at the enthusia
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        m I express concerning this divine wanderer? You would not if you saw
 im. You have been tutored and refined by books and retirement from the world, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         you are therefore somewhat fastidious; but this only renders you the mo
re fit to appreciate the extraordinary merit's of this wonderful man. Sometimes I have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          endeavoured to discover what quality it is which he possesses that elev
ates him so immeasurably above any other person I ever knew. I believe it to be an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           tuitive discernment, a quick but never-failing power of judgment, a pen
etration into the causes of things, unequalled for clearness and precision; add toules and precision; add toules and toules are also and toules and toules are also are also and toules are also are also are also and toules are also are
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            is a facility of expression and a voice whose varied intonations are so
                                                                                                                                                     t h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           sily perceive, Captain Walton, that I have suffered great and unparallele
                                                                                                                                                     e a
d misfortunes. I had determined at one time that the memory of these evils shou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          die with me, but you have won me to alter my determination. You seek
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been. I
or knowledge and wisdom, as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratificatio
do not know that the relation of my disasters will be useful to you; yet, when I r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          flect that you are pursuing the same course, exposing yourself to the s
ame dangers which have rendered me what I am, I imagine that you may dedu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e an apt moral from my tale, one that may direct you if you succeed in y
our undertaking and console you in case of failure. Prepare to hear of occur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ences which are usually deemed marvellous. Were we among the tamer
scenes of nature I might fear to encounter your unbelief, perhaps your ridic
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ule; but many things will appear possible in these wild and mysterious reg
ons which would provoke the laughter of those unacquainted with the ev
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    of nature; nor can I doubt but that my tale conveys in its series internal evide
nce of the truth of the events of which it is composed." You may easily i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              gine that I was much gratified by the offered communication, yet I could not endure that he should renew
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          hear the promised narrative, partly from curiosity and partly from a strong desire to ameliorate his fate if it ou," he replied, "for your sympathy, but it is useless; my fate is nearly fulfilled. I wait but for one event, and t perceiving that I wished to interrupt him; "but you are mistaken, my friend, if thus you will allow me to name
his grief by a recital of his misfortunes. I felt the greatest eagerness t
were in my power. I expressed these feelings in my answer. "I thank
hen I shall repose in peace. I understand your feeling," continued h e
you; nothing can alter my destiny; listen to my history, and you w il
ay when I should be at leisure. This promise drew from me the w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           perceive how irrevocably it is determined." He then told me that he would commence his narrative the next of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         armest thanks. I have resolved every night, when I am not imperatively occupied by my duties, to record, as n he day. If I should be engaged, I will at least make notes. This manuscript will doubtless afford you the great
early as possible in his own words, what he has related during t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               own lips--with what interest and sympathy shall I read it in some future day! Even now, as I commence m
est pleasure; but to me, who know him, and who hear it from h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                dwell on me with all their melancholy sweetness; I see his thin hand raised in animation, while the lineam
y task, his full-toned voice swells in my ears; his lustrous eyes
ents of his face are irradiated by the soul within. Strange and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 harrowing must be his story, frightful the storm which embraced the gallant vessel on its course and wr
ecked it--thus! Chapter 1 I am by birth a Genevese, and my fa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 mily is one of the most distinguished of that republic. My ancestors had been for many years counsellor
s and syndics, and my father had filled several public situati
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ons with honour and reputation. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity and indefatigab
le attention to public business. He passed his younger days
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 erpetually occupied by the affairs of his country; a variety of circumstances had prevented his marryin
g early, nor was it until the decline of life that he became a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   usband and the father of a family. As the circumstances of his marriage illustrate his character, I cann
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ls was a merchant who, from a flourishing state, fell, through numerous mischances, into poverty. Thi
refrain from relating them. One of his most intimate frien
s man, whose name was Beaufort, was of a proud and un
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    bending disposition and could not bear to live in poverty and oblivion in the same country where he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ence. Having paid his debts, therefore, in the most honourable manner, he retreated with his daugl
ad formerly been distinguished for his rank and magnific
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        in wretchedness. My father loved Beaufort with the truest friendship and was deeply grieved by hi
ter to the town of Lucerne, where he lived unknown and
s retreat in these unfortunate circumstances. He bitterly
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         plored the false pride which led his friend to a conduct so little worthy of the affection that united
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            the hope of persuading him to begin the world again through his credit and assistance. Beaufo
 hem. He lost no time in endeavouring to seek him out, w
rt had taken effectual measures to conceal himself, an d
                                                                                                                                                                                     it wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            s ten months before my father discovered his abode. Overjoyed at this discovery, he hastened
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ss. But when he entered, misery and despair alone welcomed him. Beaufort had saved but a v
to the house, which was situated in a mean street near t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  was sufficient to provide him with sustenance for some months, and in the meantime he h
ery small sum of money from the wreck of his fortune
                                                                                                                                                                                    s , but it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   use. The interval was, consequently, spent in inaction; his grief only became more deep a
oped to procure some respectable employment in a me
                                                                                                                                                                                  chan t's ho
                                                                                                                                                                                   it to ok so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      fast hold of his mind that at the end of three months he lay on a bed of sickness, incapa
nd rankling when he had leisure for reflection, and at I
ble of any exertion. His daughter attended him with th
                                                                                                                                                                               e a reatest ten
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ness, but she saw with despair that their little fund was rapidly decreasing and that th
ere was no other prospect of support. But Caroline B
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  d a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          mind of an uncommon mould, and her courage rose to support her in her adversity
                                                                                                                                                                            eaufort p ossesse
She procured plain work; she plaited straw and by va
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             o earn a pittance scarcely sufficient to support life. Several months passed in this
                                                                                                                                                                            us me ans contr i
manner. Her father grew worse; her time was more e
                                                                                               ntirely oc c
                                                                                                                                                                         ie din att ending
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               er means of subsistence decreased; and in the tenth month her father died in he
r arms, leaving her an orphan and a beggar. This las
                                                                                               blo wo
                                                                                                            ve rc
                                                                                                                                                                        me her, and she kne
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Beaufort's coffin weeping bitterly, when my father entered the chamber. He ca
                                                                                                             her
me like a protecting spirit to the poor girl, who comm i
                                                                                                                                                                    sel f to his care; an d afte
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         the int
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   erment of his triend he conducted her to Geneva and placed her under the pr
otection of a relation. Two years after this event Car
                                                                                                                                                                   ine bec ame h is wife. There
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     considerable difference between the ages of my parents, but this circumst
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         was a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       of justice in my father's upright mind which rendered it necessary that he
nce seemed to unite them only closer in bonds of de
                                                                                             V O
                                                                                                    te
                                                                                                                                                                  affection. There was a sen
should approve highly to love strongly. Perhaps dur in
                                                                                                                                                                  g former years he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         red from the late-discovered unworthiness of one beloved and so was d
sposed to set a greater value on tried worth. There wa
                                                                                                 s a
                                                                                                                                                                         of gratit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ship in his attachment to my mother, differing wholly from the doting fo
ndness of age, for it was inspired by reverence for he r
                                                                                               virtues and
                                                                                                                                                                                                re to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           he means of, in some degree, recompensing her for the sorrows she h
ad endured, but which gave inexpressible grace to h is
                                                                                              behaviour t o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            g was made to yield to her wishes and her convenience. He strove to s
                                                                                                                                                               her.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ound her with all that could tend to excite pleasurable emotion in her
helter her, as a fair exotic is sheltered by the garden er, from
                                                                                              every roug
                                                                                                                                                                       wind
                                                                                                                                                                                                and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              su rr
soft and benevolent mind. Her health, and even the
                                                                                             quillity of h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             tant spirit, had been shaken by what she had gone through. During th
                                                                                                                                                                                               o co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ns
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               linquished all his public functions; and immediately after their unio
e two years that had elapsed previous to their marri
                                                                                             father had
                                                                        age m y
n they sought the pleasant climate of Italy, and the c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                t on a tour through that land of wonders, as a restorative for her w
                                                                         hange o
                                                                                         f scene and
                                                                                                                                                                         est
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Na
eakened frame. From Italy they visited Germany and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ples, and as an infant accompanied them in their rambles. I remain
                                                                                                                                                                                              orn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  raw inexhaustible stores of affection from a very mine of love to
ed for several years their only child. Much as they were
                                                                                       hed to eac
                                                                                                                                                                                  th
bestow them upon me. My mother's tender caresses and
                                                                                       ather's s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  while regarding me are my first recollections. I was their playthin
                                                                                                                                                               e o f ben
                                                                                                                                                                                  ev
g and their idol, and something better--their child, the in nocen
                                                                                       t and help
                                                                                                                                                                c reature besto wed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   eaven, whom to bring up to good, and whose future lot it was in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   by h
heir hands to direct to happiness or misery, accordi ng as the y fu lfilled thei
                                                                                                                                                  dut i es t o ward s me. W ith thi s de
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   scio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   usness of what they owed towards the being to which they had
given life, added to the active spirit of tenderness that animated both, it may b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   f my infant life I received a lesson of patience, of charity, and of
                                                                                                                                                 e imagined that while du rin g every
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 our o
self-control, I was so guided by a silken cord that all seemed bu  t one trai n  of en
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    care. My mother had much desired to have a daughter, but I co
                                                                                                                                                 oyment to me. For a long t ime I was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   У
ntinued their single offspring. When I was about five
                                                                                                                                                 ng an excur sion beyond the frontier
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      they passed a week on the shores of the Lake of Como. Their
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      у,
                                                                                                                                                s, to my mother
benevolent disposition often made them enter the c o tta ges of the poor. Thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  n a dut
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      was a necessity, a passion--remembering what she had suffe
ed, and how she had been relieved--for her to act in her turn the guar d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e d. During one of their walks a poor cot in the foldings of a val
                                                                                                                                                       o f half-clothed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ed about it spoke of penury in its worst shape. One day, when
e attracted their notice as being singularly disconsolate, while the nu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ren gat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     a peasant and his wife, hard working, bent down by care and la
my father had gone by himself to Milan, my mother, accompanied by m
                                                                                                                                                   e, visited this abode. She found
bour, distributing a scanty meal to five hungry babe s. Amon g t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e r far above all the rest. She appeared of a different stock. Th
                                                                                                                                                   the re was one which attracted m
e four others were dark-eyed, hardy little vagrants; this child w
                                                                                                                                                  n and very fair. Her hair was the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       brig h test liv ing gol d, and despite the poverty of her clothing, seemed to set a cr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       nd the moulding of her face so expressive of sensibility and sweetness that none c
own of distinction on her head. Her brow was clear and ample, hoer blue eyes c
                                                                                                                                                     ou d less, and her lip s a
ould behold her without looking on her as of a distinct species, a being heaven-s e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ial stamp in all her fe atures. The peasant woman, perceiving that my mother fixed
                                                                                                                                                                    d bearing a cel est
eyes of wonder and admiration on this lovely girl, eagerly communicated her histor
                                                                                                                                              She was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        , bu t the daugh ter of a Milanese nobleman. Her mother was a German and had died
eyes of wonder and admiration on this lovely girl, eagerly communicated her histor y . She was not her child , but the daugh ter of a Milanese nobleman. Her mother was a German and had died on growing her birth. The infant had been placed with these good people to nurse: they were better off then. They had not been long married, and their eldest child was but just born. The father of their charge was one of those Italians nursed in the antique good people to nurse: they were better off then. They had not been long married, and their charge was one of those Italians nursed in the liberty of his country. He became the victim of its weakness. Whether he had died or still lingered in the dungeons of Austria was not known. His property was confiscated; his child became an orphan and a beggar. She continued with her foreign and their charge to her. They deep death of the seemed to she dradiance from her looks and whose form and motions were lighter than pictured cherub—a creature who seemed to she dradiance from her looks and whose form and motions were lighter than the chamois of the hills. The apparition was soon explained. With his permission my mother prevailed on her rustic guardians to yield their charge to her. They were fond of the sweet on of the sweet on the hills. The apparition was soon explained. With his permission my mother prevailed on her rustic guardians to yield their charge to her. They were fond of the sweet on the hills. The apparition was soon explained. With his permission my mother prevailed on her rustic guardians to yield their charge to her. They were fond of the sweet on the hills. The apparition was soon explained. With his permission my mother prevailed on her rustic guardians to yield their charge to her. They were fond of the sweet of the weet of th
ispute. Harmony was the soul of our companionship, and the diversity and contrast that subsisted in our characters drew us nearer together. Elizabeth was of a calmer and more concentrated disposition; but, with all my ardour, I was capable of a more intense application and was more deeply smitten with the thirst for knowledge. She busied herself with following the aerial creations of the poets; and in the majestic and wondrous scenes which surrounded our Swiss home --the sublime shapes of the mountains, the changes of the seasons, tempest and calm, the silence of winter, and the life and turbulence of
our Alpine summers--she found ample scope for admiration and delight. While my companion contemplated with a serious and satisfied spirit the magnificent appearances of things, I delighted in investigating their causes. The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine. Curiosity, earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature, gladness akin to rapture, as they were unfolded to me, are among the earliest sensations I can remember. On the birth of a second son, my junior by seven years, my parents gave up entirely their wandering life and fixed themselves in their native country. We possessed a house in Geneva, and a campagne on Belrive, the eastern shore of the lake, at the distance of rather more than a league from the city. We resided principally in the latter, and the lives of my parents were passed in considerable seclusion. It was my temper to avoid a crowd and to attach myself fervently to a few. I was indifferent, therefore, to my school-fellows in general; but I united myself in the bonds of the closest friendship to one among them. Henry Clerval was the son of a merchant of Geneva. He was a boy of singular talent and fancy. He loved enterprise, hardship, and even danger for its own sake. He
was deeply read in books of chivalry and romance. He composed heroic songs and began to write many a tale of enchantment and knightly adventure. He tried to make us act plays and to enter into masquerades, in which the characters were drawn from the heroes of Roncesvalles, of the Round Table of Ki
ng Arthur, and the chivalrous train who shed their blood to redeem the holy sepulchre from the hands of the infidels. No human being could have passed a happier childhood than myself. My parents were possessed by the very spirit of kindness and indulgence. We felt that they were not the tyrants to rule
our lot according to their caprice, but the agents and creators of all the many delights which we enjoyed. When I mingled with other families I distinctly discerned how peculiarly fortunate my lot was, and gratitude assisted the development of filial love. My temper was sometimes violent, and my passions ve
nement; but by some law in my temperature they were turned not towards childish pursuits but to an eager desire to learn, and not to learn all things indiscriminately. I confess that neither the structure of languages, nor the code of governments, nor the politics of various states possessed attractions for m
e. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied me, still my inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world. Me
anwhile Clerval occupied himself, so to speak, with the moral relations of things. The busy stage of life, the virtues of heroes, and the actions of men were his theme; and his hope and his dream was to become one among those whose names are recorded in story as the gallant and adventurous benefactor
s of our species. The saintly soul of Elizabeth shone like a shrine-dedicated lamp in our peaceful home. Her sympathy was ours; her smile, her soft voice, the sweet glance of her celestial eyes, were ever there to bless and animate us. She was the living spirit of love to soften and attract; I might have become
e sullen in my study, rought through the ardour of my nature, but that she was there to subdue me to a semblance of her own gentleness. And Clerval-could aught ill entrench on the noble spirit of Clerval? Yet he might not have been so perfectly humane, so thoughtful in his generosity, so full of kindness
and tenderness amidst his passion for adventurous exploit, had she not unfolded to him the real loveliness of beneficence and made the doing good the end and aim of his soaring ambition. I feel exquisite pleasure in dwelling on the recollections of childhood, before misfortune had tainted my mind and ch
anged its bright visions of extensive usefulness into gloomy and narrow reflections upon self. Besides, in drawing the picture of my early days, I also record those events which led, by insensible steps, to my after tale of misery, for when I would account to myself for the birth of that passion which afterwa
ds ruled my destiny I find it arise, like a mountain river, from ignoble and almost forgotten sources; but, swelling as it proceeded, it became the torrent which, in its course, has swept away all my hopes and joys. Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate; I desire, therefore, in this narration
to state those facts which led to my predilection for that science. When I was thirteen years of age we all went on a party of pleasure to the baths near Thonon; the inclemency of the works of Cornelius A
rippa. I opened it with apathy; the theory which he attempts to demonstrate and the wonderful facts which he relates soon changed this feeling into enthusiasm. A new light seemed to dawn upon my mind, and bounding with joy, I communicated my discovery to my father. My father looked carelessly at the
itle page of my book and said, "Ah! Cornelius Agrippa! My dear Victor, do not waste your time upon this; it is sad trash." If, instead of this remark, my father had taken the principles of Agrippa had been entirely exploded and that a modern system of science had been introdu
ced which possessed much greater powers than the ancient, because the powers of the latter were chimerical, while those of the former were real and practical, under such circumstances I should certainly have thrown Agrippa aside and have contented my imagination, warmed as it was, by returning with
greater ardour to my former studies. It is even possible that the train of my ideas would never have received the fatal impulse that led to my ruin. But the cursory glance my father had taken of my volume by no means assured me that he was acquainted with its contents, and I continued to read with the greatest avidity. When I returned home my first care was to procure the whole works of this author, and afterwards of Paracelsus and Albertus Magnus. I read and studied the wild fancies of these writers with delight; they appeared to me treasures known to few besides myself. I have described myself as always
having been imbued with a fervent longing to penetrate the secrets of nature. In spite of the intense labour and wonderful discoveries of modern philosophers, I always came from my studies discontented and unsatisfied. Sir Isaac Newton is said to have avowed that he felt like a child picking up shells bes
de the great and unexplored ocean of truth. Those of his successors in each branch of natural philosophy with whom I was acquainted appeared even to my boy's apprehensions as tyros engaged in the same pursuit. The untaught peasant beheld the elements around him and was acquainted with their prac
tical uses. The most learned philosopher knew little more. He had partially unveiled the face of Nature, but her immortal lineaments were still a wonder and a mystery. He might dissect, anatomize, and give names; but, not to speak of a final cause, causes in their secondary and tertiary grades were utterly u
nknown to him. I had gazed upon the fortifications and impediments that seemed to keep human beings from entering the citadel of nature, and rashly and ignorantly I had repined. But here were books, and here were men who had penetrated deeper and knew more. I took their word for all that they averred,
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