

**IA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649185115

La by Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ARTHUR THOMAS QUILLER-COUCH**

**IA**



# IA

BY  
Q

*" Though it be songe  
Of old and yonge  
That I sholde be to blame ;  
Theyrs be the charge  
That speke so large  
In hurtyng of my name ;  
For I wyll prove  
That faythfulle love  
It is deuyd of shame."*

LONDON  
CASSELL AND COMPANY  
LIMITED

1896

To J. M. BARRIE.

*THE responsibility for this little book is a very little matter. Still, a part of it belongs to you; for it was you who, having seen a fragment of Id's story, persuaded me to write out the whole. I have done so as briefly and carefully as I can, and now send my girl to you with this note of introduction.*

*She comes from "behind the hills," of a race not always understood. She goes out of the warm circle of the lamp here, to stand (I know) in the outer court and penumbra of most readers' affections. To you, the creator of Jess and Leebie, Margaret and Babbie, she dares to appeal less on her own deserving than in the name of a seven-year-old friendship, which began, on my side, in admiration of your genius, and has grown on both sides, I hope, for better reasons.*

Q.

*The Haven, Fowey,  
New Year's Day, 1896.*

## IA

---

*"Though it be song  
Of old and yonge  
That I sholde be to blame;  
Theyrs be the charge  
That speke so large  
In hurtyng of my name;  
For I wyll prove  
That faythfulle love  
It is devoyd of shame."*

## PROLOGUE

### THE ROUND-HOUSE AT REVYER

AT the western end of the bay a peninsula of slate-rock, covered with short turf, pushes out N.N.E. into the Atlantic. The people of Ardevora,\* who dry their nets along its

\* Stressed on second syllable—Ardévora. It may be well to mention here that the first letter in "Ia" is long, and should be sounded in English fashion, as if it were written "Eia."

chine, call this The Island; but a low ridge of sand and gravel connects it with the main-land. From the shelter of this ridge Ardevora Town looks across the bay to the whitewashed lighthouse on Gulland Point—four miles as the crow flies, six if you follow the deep curve of the foreshore.

The beach all the way is sandy—the sand a vivid yellow; and on bright days the sea takes from this underlying sand a sapphire clearness. Blue sea, white breakers, yellow shore—in summer this bit of the coast is full of colour. It has its own flowers, too; on the Island the vernal squills, white and pink as well as blue; gentians afterwards, sea-lavender and succory, and the scarce balm-leaved figwort; wall-mustard, fennel, and valerian everywhere.

Around the bay, at the back of its yellow beaches, the Towans stretch. In the beginning these were sand-hills piled by the



wind and continually shifting. But first the sea-rush took root and stopped the drift, and by degrees this encouraged the turf to grow; and then the spleenwort came, and the gentians and columbines and broad-leaved centaury; and now the Towans are green and pleasant to walk on.

But behind them, and behind Ardevora, rises a country that is sombre and desolate, winter and summer; a land of moors and granite cairns and things silently gone out of mind, and other things handed down and whispered between a smile and a shudder (as a man will tell his wife in the morning some absurd and evil dream that he has had); where to be born, or to live for long, is supposed to confer strange powers.

From this forsaken land a small river—it has no name—runs down and breaks over a sandy bar into the arc of the bay, about two miles and a half from Ardevora Town. Within the river mouth, among the Towans

on the left bank, and half a mile from the bar, stands the hamlet of Revyer.

Revyer consists of a cottage, a boat-builder's yard, and a round meeting-house. That is all. Nevertheless, Revyer is the metropolis of a religious sect which, not twenty years ago, numbered its followers by thousands, dispersed in every quarter of the globe. The history of the Second Advent Saints begins with this meeting-house among the sand-hills: and the history of the meeting-house begins with the Vision of Mary Penno in the year 1773.

In that year, as everybody knows, the Wesleyan movement was divided by a controversy between its leaders — between the Calvinist Methodists on the one hand and the Arminian Methodists on the other. It was Charles Wesley who had first planted Methodism in Ardevora, and John Wesley who confirmed it in 1743. During the next thirty years John paid the town no less than

sixteen visits, and in August, 1770, was able to write: "Here God has made all our enemies to be at peace with us." Notwithstanding, when the Wesleys declared against Predestination, a certain number in Ardevora adhered to the Calvinist creed; among them Mary Penno, a maiden lady owning some small properties in the neighbourhood.

The account of what befell this good woman on Lady Day, 1773, I take verbatim from a deposition sworn and attested in the presence of Charles Pendarves, Esq., Magistrate of the County:—

*"March 30th, 1773.—Came before me Mary Penno, spinster, ætat. 38, Susannah Hocken, James Hocken (her husband), Onesimus Heathcote, Walter Chellew, William John Trehwella, Nahum Sprigge, and others. This Mary Penno deposes that on the twenty-fifth of this month, she having rent to receive from James Hocken of Revyer for a cottage occupied by him and his wife Susannah, did walk over from Ardevora to*