

**TWO ON A TOWER; A
ROMANCE, IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

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Two on a tower; a romance, in three volumes. Vol. III by Thomas Hardy

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THOMAS HARDY

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VOL. III .

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BY

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TWO ON A TOWER.



CHAPTER I.

LOUIS began his stratagem by calling at the tower one afternoon, as if on the impulse of the moment.

After a friendly chat with Swithin, whom he found there (having watched him enter), Louis invited the young man to dine the same evening at the House, that he might have an opportunity of showing him some interesting old scientific works in folio, which according to Louis's account, he had stumbled on in overhauling the library. Louis set no great bait for St. Cleeve in this statement, for old

science was not old art, which, having perfected itself, has died and left its secret hidden in its remains. But Swithin was a responsive fellow, and readily agreed to come; being, moreover, always glad of a chance of meeting Viviette *en famille*. Besides, he hoped to tell her of a scheme that had lately suggested itself to him as likely to benefit them both: that he should go away for a while, and endeavour to raise sufficient funds to visit the great observatories of Europe, possibly with a view to obtaining a post in one of them. Hitherto the only bar to the plan had been the exceeding narrowness of his income, which, though sufficient for his present life, was absolutely inadequate to the requirements of a travelling astronomer.

Meanwhile Louis Glanville had returned to the House, and told his sister in the

most innocent manner that he had been in the company of St. Cleeve that afternoon, getting a few wrinkles on astronomy; that they had grown so friendly over the fascinating subject as to leave him no alternative but to invite St. Cleeve to dine at Wolland the same evening, with a view to certain researches in the library afterwards.

“I could quite make allowances for any youthful errors into which the young man may have been betrayed,” he continued sententiously, “since, for a scientist, he is really admirable. No doubt the Bishop’s caution will not be lost upon him; and as for his birth and connexions,—those he can’t help.”

Lady Constantine showed such alacrity in adopting the idea of having Swithin to dinner, and she ignored his “youthful errors” so completely, as almost to betray