



CHAPTER XII

THE ETERNAL TRAGEDY

I WAS sorry to disturb the placidity of my life at Nicosia by even a thought of leaving it; but, as there were other places which I was fully determined to visit, I had already settled with myself what these places should be. Three of them, so I found, lay not very far apart—the town and castle of Kyrenia, the mountain castle of St. Hilarion, and the mediæval monastery of Bella Pais, which report said was wonderful. Accordingly, in the course of the next few days, Colonel Falkland, to whom I explained my wishes, procured for me an invitation to stay with one of the district judges, Mr. St. John, who lived within easy distance of all the three places I have mentioned. Mr. St. John's official duties would be shortly calling him from home, so he begged that, if I came, I would come as soon as possible. I had not expected quite so much hurry in the matter; but, as hurry was necessary, it was arranged by an exchange of telegrams that I should go to him as soon as I could get a carriage to take me.