

**THE BANE OF A LIFE:
A NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. III**

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The Bane of a Life: A Novel. In Three Volumes, Vol. III by Thomas Wright

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THOMAS WRIGHT

**THE BANE OF A LIFE:
A NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. III**

THE
BANE OF A LIFE.

THE
BANE OF A LIFE.

J. Nobel.

BY

THOMAS WRIGHT

(THE "JOURNEYMAN ENGINEER"),

AUTHOR OF "SOME HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF THE WORKING CLASSES,"
"JOHNNY ROBINSON," "THE GREAT UNWASHED," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.



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THE BANE OF A LIFE.

BOOK III.—(continued.)

CHAPTER IV.

ENTER FRANK HAMILTON.

AFTER the wedding-trip Miss Steperson had duly carried out her intention of asking Kate and Fanny to spend an afternoon with her. As she had predicted would be the case, she and Fanny got on together very nicely, and she often had her to see her afterwards. But after the first occasion she rarely asked Kate. Under all her loudness and gaiety Miss Steperson had a good deal of common sense. She saw that Kate went out much oftener than was consistent with the proper discharge of her household duties, and she did not wish to be a party to encouraging her in the habit, as on one occasion she took the liberty of telling her pretty pointedly.

“I’ll tell you what it is, my lady,” she said, on

meeting her one afternoon, and finding she was on her way to take tea at the house of a friend of her own stamp, "it strikes me you have a great deal too much of this tea-partying."

"Oh, you can't have too much of a good thing," answered Kate, smiling.

"I'm not so sure of that," replied Miss Steperson; "but anyhow, these young wives' mutual tea-party associations *aren't* good things. They're very bad ones; they lead to idleness and extravagance, rows and character-maulings. In fact, that sort of tea-drinking is almost as bad as dram-drinking."

"I'm sure the parties I go to are nothing of the sort," said Kate, in an injured tone; "there's nothing low about them."

"Well, of course I didn't mean quite what I said," answered Miss Steperson, laughing at her own energetic denunciations; "but seriously, Kate, from all I hear, you go out much oftener than is good for your home or yourself, or than your husband would allow you to do if he was wise."

"Oh, but if you were married, Carry," said Kate, smiling again, "it would be when he *did* allow you to have your own way that you would think your husband was wise."

"No, it wouldn't, Kate. I'd think him a fool if he let me have as much of it as yours lets you. If I was him I'd put a stop to your gallop."