

of Mrs. Fane. "I don't know what it is in her, but I never lost my head in the same way about any one else, and yet there are times when I hate her!"

"Oh, if you go into heroics, I'll have nothing to do with you. Common sense and fixed purpose are the only levers to lift you out of your difficulties."

"And your help, most thorough-going of allies," he added. "If all goes right, you'll find I'll keep faith faithfully."

"You had better," replied Mrs. Bayley, with a pleasant smile, but a sharp, warning look from her black eyes, of which he took little heed.

After seeing her rooms, with which she declared herself delighted, and bidding good evening to Miss Onslow and her uncle, who promised to see her next day, Mrs. Fane asked Sir Frederic Morton to dine with Mrs. Bayley and herself.

"Horrid nuisance! I can't," he returned.