

A KNIGHT OF THE NETS

am the most wretched of women;" and her air of misery was so genuine and hopeless that it hurt Archie very sensibly.

"I am sorry," he said; "but you, and you only, are to blame. I have no need to go over your plans and plots for this very end; I have no need to remind you how you seasoned every hour of poor Sophy's life with your regrets that Marion was *not* my wife. These circumstances would not have influenced me, but her name has been mixed up with mine and smirched in the contact."

"And you will make a woman with a 'smirched' name Mistress of Braelands? Have you no family pride?"

"I will wrong no woman, if I know it; that is my pride. If I wrong them, I will right them. However, I give myself no credit about righting Marion, her father made me do so."

"My humiliation is complete. I shall die of shame."

"Oh, no! You will do as I do—make the best of the affair. You can talk of Marion's fortune and of her relationship to the Earl of Glamis, and so on."

"That nasty, bullying old man! And you to be frightened by him! It is too shameful."

"I was not frightened by him; but I have dragged one poor innocent woman's name