

**GEORGE BRYANT;
OR, THE NOBLE
RESOLVE**

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George Bryant; Or, The Noble Resolve by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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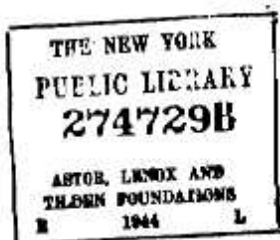
THE NOBLE RESOLVE.

ILLUSTRATED.

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
I.—The Quarrel,	11
II.—Sad Effects of Vice,	19
III.—An Unexpected Visitor,	27
IV.—A Child's Home,	36
V.—Poverty and Crime,	41
VI.—Visit to the City,	54
VII.—The Return,	62
VIII.—An Adopted Daughter,	71
IX.—The Noble Resolve,	77
X.—The Promise and the Temptation,	85
XI.—Society Gossip. A Sad Interview,	93
XII.—Sorrow and Grief,	103
XIII.—Scene in a Gambling-House,	109
XIV.—The Minister's Study,	116
XV.—Parlor Scenes,	123
XVI.—Confidence not Lost,	128
XVII.—Conversation on Reform,	134
XVIII.—Conclusion,	141

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"Great is the strength of an individual soul, true to its high trust;—mighty is it, even to the redemption of a world.

"But blessed are they that endure to the end,—singing patiently and sweetly, till all join in, with loved acquiescence, and universal harmony prevails, without forcing into submission the free discord of a single voice.

"This is the hardest and the bravest task which a true soul has to perform amid the clashing elements of time. But *once* has it been done perfectly, unto the end; and that Voice,—so clear in its meekness,—is heard above all the din of a tumultuous world; one after another chimes in with its patient sweetness, and through infinite discords, the listening soul can perceive that the great tune is slowly coming into harmony."—*Mrs. Child.*

INTRODUCTION.

Men say this is an age of reform, and that it is manifested in a thousand ways.

The advocates of Temperance point to their silken banner, borne before their grand processions; to their pledge of perpetual hate to all that can intoxicate, with its long string of names; and they tell of the thousands that they have reformed.

And Christianity steps forth, with open Bible, and shows us her numerous churches, filled with attentive listeners to truth and eloquence, and she tells us that the world is reforming beneath her influence. She hath sent the Bible to distant lands; and nations that had long lived in ignorance and superstition, now bow in worship to the one living and true God.

The Abolitionists tell us that slavery will cease, that great and powerful minds are on their side, and that the slave-holding institutions of the south already totter to their centre. A great reform is taking place, and they are its movers.

And the old law of capital punishment feels the influence of the all-powerful spell. The gal-

lows trembles to its foundation, and a thousand voices are raised for its abolishment; and this is Reform. And last, but not least, in the catalogue, stand our new method of prison discipline, our scientific societies, our benevolent institutions, and our asylums for the poor and the distressed.

Surely this is an age of reform. But amid all this talk and labor, does the world grow better? Is humanity in a better condition? Does virtue triumph over vice, and sin hide its head in shame and disgrace? Alas! the truth is too plain for us to shut our eyes against it.

We are not conservatives; we do not say, "Give us the days of the past, for the present are full of wickedness and sin." But we do say that it is well that the watchword of the day is reform; for much, very much is it needed.

Though Temperance and Christianity and other agents have done much, yet sin still stalks boldly through the world, and thousands are following in its path; suffering humanity still cries aloud for aid, and crime still rears its hydra head in defiance and scorn. The work is grandly laid out, but it is but begun. The scheme is beautiful, the theory perfection, and now we want the practice.

In some things men are strangely disinterested. The world needs reform, and they willingly get