

a Dublin actress; the daughter of a Frenchman and the wife of a Belfast merchant with whom he had eloped, and the offspring of a clergyman and the daughter of a rich merchant, and several other origins of a more or less romantic character. One thing is pretty certain; she was born outside of wedlock. Her parents, whoever they were, put her in charge of an old woman residing in Tuam, and paid regularly for her education and keep up to her sixteenth year. She developed into a sprightly, accomplished girl. At the age mentioned she met an English army officer in the street one day and began a flirtation with him. After sundry stolen interviews she eloped with the gallant red-coat to Paris, just one week from the day they first met.

The Englishman was very fond of her and would gladly have made her his wife, but she preferred to live as his mistress. At the end of a month she deserted him—his money was nearly exhausted—for another love, and in less than a year she had a dozen protectors, all of whom she regarded as the creatures of her caprice. Her blandishments were bestowed in a monetary ration on the poor dupes of her wiles.

After a two years' residence in Paris she went upon the stage as a ballet girl, and was soon promoted to speaking parts, but her accent, although she had studied French from childhood, interfered with her success, and caused her to leave the theatre.

At eighteen she captured a Russian Prince. He was possessed of great wealth, and was anxious to spend it. Had he hunted Paris and St. Petersburg over, he could not have found anyone more anxious to gratify his desires than was the fascinating Cora. Her only care was that the largest portion should be squandered in her behalf. In this selfish wish she was fully gratified. He placed her in luxurious lodgings, furnished her with carriages, jewels, servants, everything in fact that unnumbered coins could buy and her mercenary and avaricious nature craved. He gave dinners and parties to artists, actors and journalists and soon grew to be the fashion. The Prince had a choice assortment of vices. He drank, gambled, and did everything he ought not to have done. Under such a high pressure of extravagance his pile of lucre soon began to

flatten out and become beautifully less in bulk.

Cora, as soon as she found that her golden star was on the wane, transferred her affections to another purse. The Prince chided her for her heartlessness, but received only jeers for his bruised heart. One day he called on her at the costly mansion which his money had bought, and was ordered away from the door by a burly man servant, who was acting under Cora's orders. Six weeks after she drove by the Prince's residence and heard an auctioneer calling for bids on his effects. Bankruptcy had overtaken her noble lover. A light, careless laugh, and the interjection, "Poor fool," showed how much the ruin she had wrought affected her.

From that time until the fall of the Empire, she continued in the same course. She would have no dealings with men who were not rich, and she scattered their funds with a recklessnessavoring of malignancy. She always had a passion for display and the more costly the more pleasing to her. Her toilets were pronounced ravishing; she set many of the modes that are followed on both side of the sea; her name crept into paragraphs in London, New York and San Francisco, and served as bait to bring many rich Americans into her meshes, her fame became world-wide, and she gloried in the shame of being the acknowledged queen of folly. Every dissipated man of fortune who went to Paris was desirous of becoming acquainted with Cora Pearl, and she rarely failed to make them pay heavily for the dishonor of her acquaintance. She had a revenue from various sources that would delight a dozen ambitious money-getters, and she spent it as freely as it came.

The eternal law of retribution at last began to make itself felt with the extravagant Cora. War afforded the reckless men about Paris an opportunity to employ their restless natures in scenes outside of Cupid's court. Many of her old admirers joined their fortunes with that of Napoleon, and, like him, tumbled to ruin and obscurity.

The chastening which the French people received checked their extravagance and licentious characteristics. They calmly surveyed the road which had led to their ruin, and started with the Republic, resolved that they