

dandy whose pretensions to superior taste and refinement might sometimes have raised a laugh among his acquaintances: to his exalted station is certainly to be ascribed the halo of ridicule which surrounds the fat figure of the "First Gentleman of Europe." The extravagance of a Prince about town was so natural that it might almost be called inevitable, and noxious as it was, it was less noxious than the lavish expenditure of money in political corruption by which his virtuous father contracted a debt of a million on the Civil List. After all, if he had been allowed to marry Mrs. Fitzherbert, with whom he was sincerely in love, and who was a very amiable and estimable woman, she would probably have redeemed him, as far as it was possible to redeem any one who was leading such a life; but society, for its purposes, compelled him to put her away, and then to commit a moral bigamy by entering into a political marriage, which bore its fruits in hideous discord and revolting scandal. Perhaps, of all the actors in that deplorable scene, the least guilty was the man who, for reasons of State, had been coerced into giving his hand to a woman whom he had never seen. In the days of real royalty and of the Norman barons, kings had work enough to prevent their sinking into padded dandyism: they were compelled to display real qualities in order to keep their crowns upon their heads. But a constitutional monarch was bluntly described by Napoleon as a hog fattened at the rate of millions a year. After all, George III., in trying to play a more important part, did a hundred times more mischief than his son.

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ERRATUM.— In the last number, page 221, at the bottom, the words "from the pinnacle of the Temple" should be struck out; they formed part of an expunged clause.