

INTRODUCTION *

[*Splendeurs et Misères des Courtisanes* is the title given to the long and composite novel consisting of the following parts: I., *Comment Aiment les Filles*; II., *À Combien l'Amour Revient aux Vieillards*; III., *Où Mènent les Mauvais Chemins*; IV., *La Dernière Incarnation de Vautrin*. About half the first part appeared in 1838, under the title of "La Torpille," along with "La Femme Supérieure" ("Les Employés") and "La Maison Nucingen." This portion was divided into three chapters. The remainder of the first part and nearly all the second was published in *Le Parisien*, May 21-July 1, 1843, under the title of "Esther ou les Amours d'un Vieux Banquier," the portion entitled "La Torpille" being also republished. In this form the story was divided into three parts containing fifteen, sixteen, and fourteen chapters respectively. Late in 1844 it was reprinted in three volumes, along with "Échantillons de Causeries Françaises," and was supplemented with a fourth part entitled "Les Peines de Cœur d'un Millionnaire," divided into thirteen chapters. These four parts correspond with the first two parts of the novel as we have it. They were entitled "Splendeurs et Misères des Courtisanes; Esther." Still in 1844, the story in two parts, "Esther Heureuse" and "À Combien l'Amour Revient aux Vieillards," entered the "Scènes de la Vie Parisienne" of the "Comedy," the first part changing its title to the present form in the definitive edition. The third part ("Où Mènent les

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