

THE OUTCAST

soon enabled him to outstrip the rest of us. He went to the capital and after a few years he was spoken of as the coming man of the State, unless his dissipation, which was beginning to be a good deal talked of, should bar his advance. Finally, his life became such that most of his friends, while they deplored his abandonment, were obliged to withdraw their intimacy.

"He formed a connection, which was exceedingly disturbing to those who had enjoyed his society, and had looked to him to become the ornament of the bar. He became infatuated with the woman in question, a courtesan, by name, Antoinette Lapine, a woman of French extraction, as her name might imply, with marks of notable beauty still left—in her trim figure, and her delicate features—the nose rather long, lips full, the hair unusually abundant and glossy, and a sort of feline, almost serpentine, suppleness in her movements. Where she came from none of his friends ever knew, but from the first time he met her he appeared to have fallen completely under her