

morality is their province, and so long as the world chooses to have a clergy, a Bishop warning his flock against what he deems subversion of their morals will be a policeman on his beat. Those who do not acknowledge his jurisdiction will, of course, treat his manifesto as waste paper and buy their tickets for the theatre with a safe conscience. That the stage is out of the pale of morality will hardly be pleaded by those who are calling on the church-going world to reconcile itself with the theatre and to accept it as an auxiliary to the pulpit. All the high language which we have been hearing on this subject is a mockery if in the drama there is no distinction between right and wrong, between a true wife and an adulteress, or a concubine. Not less suicidal would it be to proclaim that character is of no consequence in an actor or actress. Ristori, the queen of the tragic, Jenny Lind, the queen of the lyric, drama would have spurned a charter of depravity. In ordinary cases it is nobody's special duty to peer behind the scenes and scrutinize the lives of the performers; but in the present instance the social question had been forced upon public attention by persons, some of them cynosures of society, who thought fit to pay homage not only to the actress but to the woman. It had come, in fact, to something like a dead pull between those who care and those who do not care for the regular union of the sexes. We should have been surprised if in such a controversy an Archbishop had been silent or had taken what it appears some divines profess to think the more Christian side, forgetting, perhaps, that when Christ bade the woman taken in adultery go, He also bade her sin no more.

It is coming to be deemed very morose and narrow to say anything against the *Dame aux Camellias*. We are told that in London, as well as in Parisian society, she has made her way through the old social barriers which were respected even in the Duke of Grafton's time, and secured recognition as an object of legitimate interest. In France the highest literary talent has been devoted to her glorification. There is something fascinating in the idea of a vein of good lurking beneath a surface of evil and