

# **THE ROMANCE OF THE IRISH STAGE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649383634

The romance of the Irish stage by J. Fitzgerald Molloy

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**J. FITZGERALD MOLLOY**

**THE ROMANCE OF  
THE IRISH STAGE**



The Romance of  
The Irish Stage

with Pictures of the Irish Capital  
in the Eighteenth Century. By  
J. FITZGERALD MOLLOY. In two  
volumes, with two Portraits. *Second  
Edition*

VOL. II.

London: Downey & Co.  
Ltd., 12 York Street,  
Covent Garden. 1897



LONDON:  
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, LD.,  
ST. JOHN'S HOUSE, CLEKENWELL, E.C.

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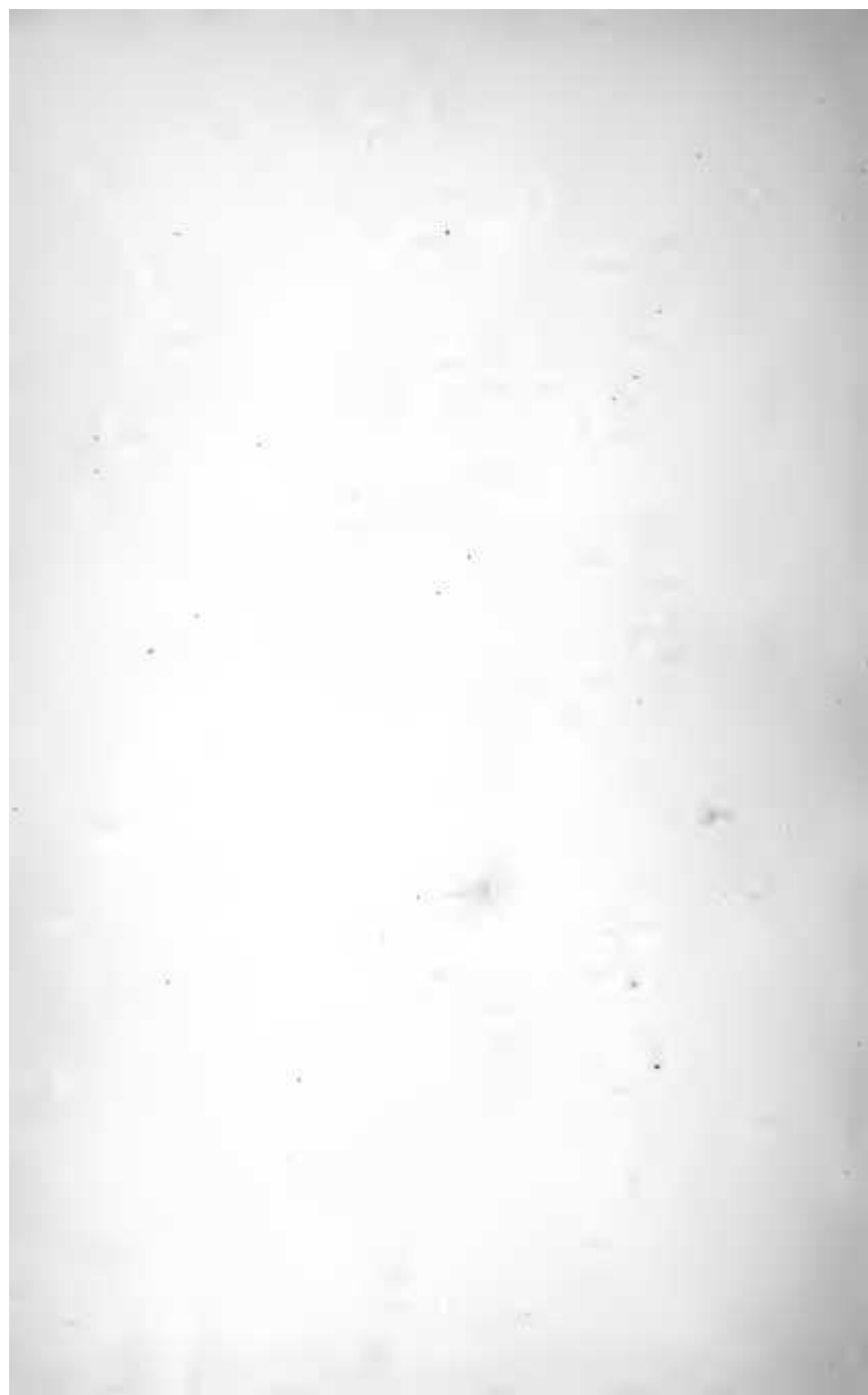
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# THE ROMANCE OF THE IRISH STAGE.

## CHAPTER I.

Peg Woffington at Smock Alley—Profusion of applause—The Beefsteak Club and its members—Authors and other geniuses—Politics spoil the fun—Scene in the theatre—Sheridan lectures his company—Terrible riot—Sheridan resigns management—The struggle of his successors—Sheridan reinstated—Apology to the town.

IT was on the evening of the 7th of October, 1751, that Peg Woffington appeared before a Dublin audience for the first time that season, when she played Lady Townley to a great house. She had long ago gained the favour of her own people, but now her popularity, if possible, increased.

Hitchcock states that her reception was such as surprised the most sanguine expectations of her friends and astonished the manager, who was highly pleased with his acquisition. "It is