

CUPID'S FOIBLES, FOLLIES AND FANCIES.

THE CHARGE AGAINST "GENTLEMEN" PERSONATING WOMEN.

The trial of the two "swells" for criminally conducting themselves in the disguises of women, and the shocking revelations of immorality, produced in the various examinations, have obtained a wide circulation throughout Great Britain, and from all parts of England communications showing the disturbed condition of the public mind produced by these exposures, are being received; and a strong pressure is being exerted upon the government to make the investigations secret, the extreme publicity given to the revelations having a demoralizing effect. As an evidence of the interest felt in this remarkable case, the street adjacent to the scene of the trial is crowded at an early hour of the day, and great difficulty is experienced in securing a passage for the prisoners, who are greeted with loud cries of contempt. Within the court the scene is equally exciting, order being retained with difficulty. Further testimony has been taken, involving the slandering of a number of prominent members of the aristocracy. Among the parties connected by these developments, it is said that Lord Arthur Clinton and a member of the Peel family, whose title the prosecution failed to show, and a number of other parties were indirectly involved, but the signatures appended to the correspondence being fictitious, no clue is afforded to the authors. The evidence further shows that a number of private fashionable balls have been held, at which men dressed as women were in attendance, indulging in the wildest bacchanalian orgies, and that the most shameful scenes were enacted by the prisoners.

These disclosures produced a tremendous sensation in the court. Their appearances have been noticed for more than two years at the various London theatres, music halls, casinos and other places of resort. The police court was crowded with the theatrical profession at the last hearing, such an interest have they taken in the case; and no wonder, after the information published in the English papers. It will be seen that they have acquired also a provincial celebrity, and in some places have exhibited their talent for personating women under distinguished patronage. During the months of May and June, 1869, the prisoner, Ernest Boulton, in company with a gentleman named Pavitt, gave a series of drawing-room entertainments in Colchester, Southend, Dummow, Bishop, Stortford, Rochford and various other places, amongst them Romford, where they played under the patronage of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart and Lady Lennard, Reverend W. T. Skilton, Mr. Octavius E. Coope, Mr. Edmund Ind and Mr. E. V. Ind. The entertainment usually comprised a short opera, a humorous dialogue in a laughable sketch. In all these the ladies' characters were represented by Ernest Boulton. At the Theatre Royal, Stock, Jan. 27th, 1869, "Her Majesty's Servants played (by special request), Mr. H. J. Byron's comedy of "£100,000," the characters of Alice and Mrs. Barlow being played respectively by Boulton and Park, who are designated in the programme Mrs. Ernestine Edwards and Miss Mabel Foster. An original farce followed, the ladies' characters being, as before, represented by Boulton and Park. A local journal, in noticing this performance, observed:—"During the piece Miss Edwards sang 'Fading Away' with a care and taste that brought down the house, and, on being *encored*, she gave 'My Pretty Jane.'" In October, 1868, Ernest Boulton assisted Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton, M.P., in a drawing-room entertainment at the Spa saloon, Scarborough. On this occasion "A Morning Call" was performed, his lordship playing Sir Edward Ardent, and Boulton, Mrs. Chillington. A Scarborough newspaper describes the latter's appearance as "something wonderful." This entertainment was postponed for a short time on account of Boulton's indisposition, and a copy of the telegram sent to Lord Arthur Clinton, containing the information, was printed and circulated in Scarborough. The prisoner Park does not appear to have taken such a prominent part in enterprises of this kind, and we have at present only found one notice of his performance of a lady's role, namely, that of Mrs. Barlow. Boulton's assumption of ladies' characters has been a matter of the past three years, for in one programme he is announced to play Maria in the "Brigand," he then being only fourteen years of age.

The prisoner Park occupied well furnished rooms in Berkeley Chambers. It has been stated that the *cartes de visite* found in Boulton's album were chiefly those of young men of apparent good breeding. In one group Boulton is found resting his hand upon the shoulder of a gentleman formerly remarkable in London for his love of fires and fire engines, and in another both Boulton and Park make up a picture of which Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton forms the centre. The habits of these young men were not economical. It is known that within a few days they occupied private boxes at the Standard Theatre and the Surrey Theatre, and whilst being denuded of their feminine habiliments at the House of Detention, the voucher for a pit box at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, dropped from the folds of Boulton's elaborate costume. There are abundant attendant circumstances which have led those best able to judge to believe that Boulton is a young man of independent income, whose parents are people of position in a northern county.

MORE ABOUT THE "FEMALE SWELLS."

THEIR WARDROBE, &c.

Proceedings against the two "swells," Boulton and Parks, particulars of which have been given in a former issue of the *CLIPPER*, were continued at the Bow street Police Court, London, Eng., on the 21st ult., the public interest in the case appearing to have increased than otherwise. Mrs. M. Stacey, at whose house in Wakefield street the prisoners were lodging at the time of their arrest, was recalled, and in cross-examination stated that, from the month of August in the last year, to February in the present year, Park wore a moustache, and during that time she had never seen him in woman's clothes. Thomas Gibbing and another man used to visit the prisoners, and they used to laugh and joke when they were dressing themselves, and she had often seen programmes of theatrical performances lying about their rooms. At the conclusion of this witness' evidence Mr. Poland proposed to read the letters, when the counsel for the prisoners objected. The magistrate overruled that objection, however, and the letters were read. The counsel for the prisoners pressed hard to get them admitted to bail, and the magistrate had entertained the idea of such a proceeding, stating, with the exception of the letters that had been read, he did not see that there was any evidence against the prisoners as to the true crime; but continued, if Mr. Poland (crown prosecutor) would say that he could make out his case he would then remand the prisoners. But that person told him he was not bound to tell his worship his opinion of the case; and after he had handed to the bench another letter for its perusal, bail was peremptorily refused. On the following day the prisoners were again brought forward and the following evidence was adduced. Mr. Barlow, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a surgeon at the Charing Cross Hospital, said that about fourteen weeks ago Park had been for a period of ten weeks an out-patient under his charge. The witness gave evidence of a medical character which it is impossible to print. Park had consulted him (but not under his own name) and he had prescribed medicines, the names of which he mentioned. Mr. Paul, surgeon to the E division of police, who had seen the prisoners on the morning after their arrest, gave corroborative evidence. He had no doubt whatever that the prisoners had been guilty of the criminal offence repeatedly. At the conclusion of this witness' testimony Mr. Cox, formerly in business at Gresham Buildings, was called, and said he knew the prisoner, Boulton. He had been introduced to him in the month of September, 1868, in the Guildhall Tavern, city. He (Boulton) was sitting at luncheon with Mr. W. H. Roberts, of Moorgate street, and Lord Arthur Clinton. He was dressed as a man, but from his conduct and appearance the witness formed the idea that he was a woman. He invited him and Lord Arthur Clinton to his office at Gresham Building, Basinghallstreet. They had some champagne. Asked Mr. Poland how he had treated the prisoner, the witness replied:—"I treated him as a fascinating woman." Lord Arthur Clinton going out of the room for a few minutes, the witness, believing Boulton to be a woman, kissed him. Lord Arthur had previously appeared jealous of his attentions to Boulton. In the course of the time Boulton was in the room he complained of being chilly, and the witness' partner took the cover off the table and wrapped it round his legs to keep him warm. A few days later witness met the prisoner again in the company of Lord Arthur Clinton, when Boulton presented him with his photograph. The next time he saw Boulton he was at Evans' in company with Park and Lord Arthur Clinton. Having then heard a statement respecting the true sex of the prisoners, the witness called the attention of the waiter to the three, and the waiter refusing to interfere, he himself went up to the table and told them they were scoundrels and ought to be turned out. He mentioned the circumstance to several persons, among others to the uncle of Lord Arthur Clinton. Subsequently he received a communication from a solicitor on the subject. The witness identified a photograph of Lord Arthur Clinton standing near Boulton, who was dressed in woman's clothes. Cross-examined by Mr. Besley, Mr. Cox said he appeared there to give evidence upon subpoena. He had not the slightest idea how the police came to find out that he knew anything of the prisoners. Marie Cavendish remembered going to a ball at Haxell's Hotel, Strand, one night about the time of the boat race. There were about thirty or forty people there, two or three in masquerade. The ball was given by Mr. Westropp Gibbins, who was dressed as a lady. The prisoners were there, and were also attired in ladies' ball dresses. She saw Boulton dancing with a gentleman. In the course of the evening a disturbance arose in the ball-room and the landlord came in. Witness was accompanied by a friend named Earl. This witness was pressed to disclose the names of the persons who accompanied her, and after some discussion it was decided that they should be communicated privately to the solicitor to the treasury, and be subpoenaed if necessary. Agnes Earle, the "friend" referred to by the previous witness, described the ball. She saw the two prisoners there and a person named Gibbins. They were dressed in women's clothes. Boulton was dressed in white satin trimmed with pink roses. She did not notice Park's dress. Gibbins, she believed, was dressed in mauve. I thought (the witness continued) that the defendants were ladies; they danced with persons in men's clothing. One of the three "ladies" smacked a man's face; the man was talking to me, and asking for my address. I know the name of one "gentleman" who was with us, and will give it to the solicitors. It was in the ladies' retiring room that I found out the defendants were "gentlemen." I never went to an entertainment there before, and don't wish to go again. Amongst the articles discovered at the prisoners' lodgings are a silver mounted gentleman's dressing case, an elegantly fitted photographic album, bearing the initials of the prisoner Boulton, filled with portraits of young men apparently of good birth and bearing, the appearance in many cases of university men, and other personal property, denoting a fair amount of good breeding, coupled with an immense wardrobe of female attire, much of it dirty and considerably the worse for wear, but at the same time exhibiting the most perfect completeness, even to the minutest articles of woman's underclothing. When brought together there were found to be between thirty and forty rich silk and other dresses, of the most costly description, all of fashionable patterns, and some elaborately trimmed with lace, furs, &c.; a large ermine cloak, well stocked female glove boxes, more than a score of different wigs and head dresses, chiefly of the prevailing golden hue, and some of them having plaited hair falls from 20 to 30 inches in length attached, a great number of girls' hats, variously trimmed, ladies' white kid boots, Balmoral walking boots richly embroidered, a large quantity of bizarre jewelry, with some bracelets and necklaces of a better class, caps, feathers, garters, a pair of curling tongs, six pairs of stays, a quantity of wadding, a gray beard, rouge, a bottle containing a quantity of chloroform, &c. A correspondent of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, about the men in women's clothes, writes that Boulton is the son of a northern country squire. Park, his friend and accomplice, is a son of a gentleman holding a high position in one of our common law courts. Cumming is a student at Oriel College, Oxford. Thomas, another of the party, is or was at Christ Church.

DEPOSED BY HIMSELF FOR AN IMPURED HUSBAND.—It would

THE "FEMALE SWELLS" SCANDAL.

The adjourned examination of the two "swells" (Boulton and Park) for personating women, was resumed at the police court, Bow street, London, Eng., on May 28th, in the presence of a crowded assemblage, amongst whom were seen a goodly representation of the "aristocracy." As soon as the magistrate had taken his seat on the bench, Mr. C. H. Collette applied, on behalf of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, to ask whether he could in any way influence the press not to publish the details of the case? He received the reply that the magistrate thought he could not interfere. The council for the prosecution then called the landlady of No. 46 Davies street, Berkeley square, where Lord A. Clinton had formerly lodged, and who had, as late as May 26th, placed in the hands of Mr. Superintendent Thompson, a number of letters, which had a material bearing on the case, and some of which would be produced. In December, 1868, Lord Arthur occupied the drawing room floor. He continued to lodge there ~~a fortnight and order beer at his expense.~~ I complained to Lord Arthur for having brought a man there dressed in women's clothes. Boulton was also there dressed in women's clothes. Lord Arthur was going to let him out of the house at twelve o'clock at night. I found some women's clothes in Lord Arthur's room, and I complained to him about it. Whilst Lord Arthur Clinton was lodging with me two boxes were brought into the house belonging to the prisoners. His lordship represented Park as his cousin, and slept with him at my house. On that occasion Park came dressed in women's clothes. Lord Arthur left my lodgings because he owed me for them, and also £10, which he had borrowed from me. Boulton had part of the money. I stopped Lord Arthur's clothes for the money he owed me (laughter). Boulton slept with Lord Arthur after I had purchased a separate bed for him, believing him to be his lordship's cousin, as I had been informed. I was surprised to see that the bed I had bought had not been slept in. Park was the one who slept with Lord Arthur. (The witness frequently confounded Park with Boulton.) Maria Duffin was the next witness called, who stated:—In July, 1868, I lived in the service of Mrs. Peck, No. 36 Southampton street, Strand. I remained there until the latter end of November of the same year. I knew Lord Arthur Clinton. He lodged there during the whole time I lived there. I know both the prisoners well. Lord Arthur and Boulton both lived there the whole time. Park used to call occasionally, and would stay two or three days. I have heard Boulton called Mr. Boulton and Ernest Boulton. I knew the other prisoner as Mr. Park. Boulton and Lord Arthur always slept together. They occupied the same room and the same bed. There was a small dressing-room leading out of Lord Arthur's dressing-room. There was a bed in the room. Park slept there when he called. I had to go through Lord Arthur's bed-room to get to the dressing room. There was no other way to it. When Park was away Boulton did not sleep in the bed; he always slept with Lord Arthur. Lord Arthur always spoke to Boulton more as he would to a lady than as to a man. Lord Arthur used to address Boulton as "my dear," and "my darling." I never could satisfy myself whether Boulton was a man or a woman. I have accused him of being a man, and he laughed and showed me his wedding ring and keeper (laughter). He said he was Lord Clinton's wife. Boulton was dressed as a lady the whole of the time, with one or two exceptions, when he wore men's attire. Park used to appear more in men's attire than in women's, but if he went out in the evening with Boulton he always dressed as a lady. I have seen some of Boulton's clothes in a wardrobe in the bed room which they occupied. I know a gentleman named Cumming. He used to come to the house. He was dressed as a gentleman, but I have seen him in lady's clothes. He came to visit Boulton on several occasions. I know a man named Thomas. He used to come to Southampton street as a gentleman, but I have seen him go out as a lady. Thomas has gone out in company with Boulton and Park. The three were dressed as women. During the time Lord Arthur and Boulton were in tenancy at Southampton street they left for Scarborough for a week. Boulton was dressed as a gentleman when they left, but he took lady's clothes with him. Boulton during the day generally wore a dressing gown. I never saw him fully dressed except when he went out. A hairdresser used to come nearly every morning to dress Boulton's hair. The hairdresser would also come at night to arrange the chignon, and dress the hair of the prisoners when they were going to the theatre or elsewhere. I never saw Lord Arthur in female attire. Whilst I was at Southampton street I spoke to my mother, and, in consequence of the conversation I had with her, I left the situation. Boulton generally wore a light chignon and a light plait of hair. When Lord Arthur said they were going to Scarborough he said that Boulton was going to take part in some private theatricals. I never saw any lady come to visit Lord Arthur. I heard that Lady Clinton came on one occasion. I never heard that any other lady came to visit him. I have known gentlemen come to visit Boulton. I was asked to come and give evidence. I have read the papers, but I never thought I should be wanted here. Superintendent Thomas, in his examination, stated that he is in receipt of 2,000 letters and papers in connection with this case. At the same time he says that is a rough estimate. Examination continued—One is addressed to Lord Clinton. They are respectively signed "Fanny Winnifred Park," "Fan" and "Fanny." One of the letters contained a photograph of Boulton. I produce a letter signed "Stella Clinton." I also produce eleven letters in the same handwriting, some signed "Stella," some "Ernest Boulton," some "E. Boulton," some "Ernest," and a twelfth letter signed "Stella," which appears to be in the same caligraphy, but rather more loosely written. These letters are addressed to Lord Arthur, and many of them have been sent through the post. I have had fifty communications since this case was first made public, offering to give evidence or information. We have not been able to sift one half of the offers to give evidence, which implicates not only the prisoners but other persons.

Mr. W. E. Dorrell, stationer, examined—I know Lord Arthur. The design "Stella C." on this note paper (produced) was sketched for his lordship, but as I heard that I should not get the money I declined to execute the engraving. He ordered cards for himself and Lady Arthur Clinton, with a crest on the top. The crest is a coronet surmounted by Prince of Wales' feathers. Three letters were read in court, they contained allusions to matters between "Stella" and his lordship, and were signed "Your affectionate sister-in-law, "Fanny Winnifred Park." Mr. Barwell, of the Charing Cross Hospital, deposed that he went to the House of Detention for the purpose of making a further medical examination. Boulton refused to allow any further medical examination to be made on the advice of his solicitor. Park at first said he had no objection, but he would rather any one made it than me, referring, I believe, to Mr. Paul, the surgeon who made the first examination of the prisoners after their arrest. Subsequently, after communicating with his solicitor, he also refused. I had acquaintance with Mr. Paul previous to this case. He asked me to go with him and examine the prisoners. The magistrates said that he would take all the responsibility upon himself with reference to the medical examination of the prisoners. He had entertained the idea that it would be very useful in furthering the ends of justice.

This closed the case for the prosecution. Dr. Clark was examined in support of the defence, but the details are unfit for publication, and when Dr. Harvey was about giving his evidence the court room was ordered to be cleared, which was done, and the evidence withheld from publication.

Mr. Gibbing, "a gentleman," whose name has been previously brought before the public as connected with the "female swells" gang, stated:—I am 21 years of age and live at 13 Bruton street, Berkeley square. I have dressed myself in female attire. I first did so five or six years ago to act in charades. I have occasionally acted for the benefit of charities, generally in female characters. I have played the part of Lady Teazle in the "School for Scandal," the part of Mrs. Mildmay in "Still Waters Run Deep," Mrs. Chillington in the "Morning Call," Mrs. Honeyton in the "Happy Pair," Helen in the "Hunchback," and many other trifling parts—scenes from plays. I have played these parts mostly in small halls and school rooms. I have played at St. George's Hall, Langham place. I played Mrs. Nutwell in "Meg's Diversion," before 1,200 people. I also gave a ball at Haxell's Hotel, and was determined to invite several "real females," in order that no suspicion might attach to the affair. The gentlemen who were present as ladies were Boulton, Thomas, Cummings and Peel. I introduced them all to the guests as gentlemen.

