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MEMOIRS OF THE (spp disant) CHEVALIER D'EMON, alias MADAME BEAU-MONT.

This very extraordinary character has for some time made a great noise in the world; and considering her sex, at length judiciously proved, she may be pronounced the phoenix of the age.

This lady (we may now be allowed to say) is descended from a good family in the South of France, and was born in the year 1734; but it seems somewhat mysterious, that even her own relations should have been deceived by her. As her letters published some time since clearly evince, in a correspondence she kept up with her mother, whom Miss D'Eon advised not to enter into politics, but to attend to the cultivation of her kitchen-garden.

We find her many years past in a public character at the court of Russia, and afterwards a bold enterprising captain of dragoons in the last war in Germany. At the conclusion of that war she came over here as secretary to the duke de Nivernois, who was appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to this court, at the time that the late duke of Bedford ratified the treaty of Paris at Versailles. On the departure of the duke de Nivernois, she remained here as chargé d'affaires, and was afterwards appointed minister, in which capacity she continued till the arrival of the count de Guerchy, as ambassador from France.

Soon after that nobleman's appearance here, a rupture ensued between them; Miss D'Eon still claiming her rank as envoy, and the ambassador refusing it. She was recalled, but would not comply with the orders of her court; upon which she was refused admission at St. James's, and declared to have no character whatever here. This declaration produced several sarcasms in the prints; but probably the then minister knew that she was precisely in that predicament; or at least he was truly prophetic.

A paper war commenced, and a M. Goddard was the advocate of Count Guerchy; but though he was the author of the Chinese Spy, a work in verse, and several others, he was no way capable of contesting with Mademoiselle---elle était si écrivait et si bien lettrée. Those celebrated letters now came forth, which will ever establish her reputation as a scholar, a politician, and a philosopher. They are in the possession of every gentleman of taste in literature, therefore we need only refer to them.
A certain adventurer (De Vergy) lifted under the Chevalier’s banner, and made affidavit, at the quarter-sessions, that he was applied to by Count Guerchy to affiguate D’Eon; say, upon his death-bed, he made this same declaration in the most solemn manner. — The bill was, however, thrown out at the quarter-sessions, but the public may probably have received some impression from so bold an accusation, made with such perjury.

A rumour began to prevail, that the Chevalier D’Eon was a female; and, in this gambling age, any opportunity affords occasion for wagers under any fictitious appellation, insurances were opened upon the doubt of her sex, as well in London as at Paris and Amsterdam, to a very considerable amount. —

The Chevalier took these manufactures in great dudgeon, threatened some, and challenged others. He thought it advisable to make a public affidavit, that he had no interest or concern whatever in these insurances; and that he never would make a judicial disclosure of his sex, though proposals had been offered him to the amount of 2000l.

In the mean time, overtures were made from the court of Versailles to give up certain papers in his possession of a political nature, to which he consented, on the promise of 500l. a year regularly paid in London. To obtain these papers there had been forcible entries made at his apartments in Scotland yard, but it happened they were not there.

Soon after this transaction he took apartments in Petit France; from whence he thought it advisable to make a precipitate retreat, and it was then surmised he had been kidnapped and carried to France. Advertisements appeared in the papers, with rewards for discovering where he was. At the expiration of a few weeks, the normal chevalier returned, but it is now generally believed that he made a temporary retreat, to give potency to a young chevalier—male or female, we find, signifies not.

From this time till very lately the Chevalier remained in obscurity; but a dispute which arose between her and M. Morande, concerning this gentleman’s giving out he knew her to be a woman, made her come again upon the topic. The Chevalier challenged M. Morande, but he declined fighting her, on account of her sex; upon which the Chevalier made application to the court of King’s Bench. This affair brought on the late trial, the following abstract of which will satisfy our readers of the authenticity of what we have said.

HAYES against JAQUES.

This cause was opened by Mr. Buller, sitting the pleadings, that it was a certain dispute held between the parties, whether the Chevalier D’Eon was a man or a woman. — The defendant undertook to prove that he was a man; when, in fact, the plaintiff aver he is a woman; I shall call our witnesses to prove that he was a woman, and then you will find a verdict for the plaintiff, with 500l, damages; on which opening, the court was thrown into a prodigious fit of laughter.

Mr. Wallace said, that he would not go so far as his learned friend had undertaken to prove, but his client would content himself with proving, that she was not he.

Policy read: That in consideration of 100l. the defendant undertook to pay 500l. to my client at any time hereafter it shall be proved that the Chevalier was a female.

Mr. La Goue. I am a surgeon and man-midwife; I have been acquainted with the Chevalier four or five years; I know it is a woman. The witness was then cross-examined by Mr. Mansfield. He said he had known her a great many years; became acquainted with her when she was fourteen; between four or five years ago I first knew she was a woman; she was complaining of some disorders, and it was necessary for me to know, before I applied proper medicines; she then told me her to be a woman; I examined, and found her to be a real woman; she told me not to mention it to any person. The plaintiff applied to me about three weeks ago; I told him I did not chuse to be examined, but if he sent me a subpoena, I must come. He told me he should want my evidence; I said, I did not like it, as it might be discovering the secrets of my profession. He said he was told I was the person who could tell. Many people have applied to me before, but I never discovered it. After I knew it she passed for a man. I do not know Michael Toff, Emley nor Hayes. Swanton told me three years ago, he would be glad if I would appear as a witness; I told him I would not, I did not like it; I did not tell him the letter.
Hayes the plaintiff did not mention any person that recommended him to me.

Mrs. de Morande. It is a woman; I say so within my own knowledge. The defendant's counsel, not satisfied with this, Mr. Lee took up this witness, and on his cross-examination he said, about four years ago he was very intimate with her; he was very lively in her conversation, and spoke to me with great freedom on the subject. She one day showed me her woman's clothes, ear-rings, and fhewed me her breasts. Some time after I was one morning (being myself a married man) introduced into her bed-chamber: she was in bed, and with great freedom bid me satisfy myself of what we had often beenJocular about, for she had often used to say I was to be godfather. I put my hand to bed, and was fully convinced she was a woman. In consequence of this last demonstration, I mentioned it to several of my acquaintance, and wrote to M. de Mouchier in France. There was a treaty on foot to get some papers of consequence out of her hands, and so evidence was--It was not necessary.

Hayes till November. It was necessary for me on a former occasion * to say something of this transaction, but not to be so particular as you now oblige me to be. I thought it would be indecent and not necessary.

M. de Morande was then sworn, as interpreter to a French physician, whose evidence was--It is a woman; I know it of my own knowledge. The defendant's counsel compelled this witness likewise to be particular. He then said, he was a physician, had attended the lady about two years ago: he knew she was a woman by her touch.

Mr. Mansfield then said, it was a gambling wager, and very unfit to be brought into a court of justice, and refuted his client's defence on the ground, that the plaintiff was satisfied at the time of the wager, and knew that the chevalier was a woman; and therefore contended it was in the nature of a fraudulent inference; and Hayes not discovering all he knew at the time, ought not to maintain the action; and read the defendant's answer in chancery, wherein he pleaded he went upon in making the inference. That the court of France had discovered and treated with her as a woman.

Mr. Wallace replied, that his client, as at Newmarket, was not bound to disclose the ground he went upon. No doubt each party thought themselves right. But Mr. Jacques thinks it an indecent action; and because it is such, he thinks the court and jury are to kick the cause out of the court, and let him keep the reol of our's he has had in his pocket these five years, for he has not paid a penny of the premium into court. But for his part, he thought it would be a fair wager, and only the question was, who had won it? which he hoped the jury would be satisfied in in favour of his client.

Lord Mansfield said, it was a mere gambling policy, and wished it was in his or the jury's power to make both lose, but it was not; and there was no objection to the legality of the wager; the only question was, who had won it? It was truly said by Mr. Wallace, that this was not to be compared to the case of a fraudulent policy; it had no relation to the laws touching legal insurance. It was not a mere wager, and the parties not bound to disclose the ground he stands upon; for each party takes and abides by his own judgment and information; and I myself remember a wager about the circumference of the Statute de Medicis, or something abroad, the parties laid; and one says I know it is right, because I have myself actually measured it; the other says the other, do you think I would lay if I had not also measured it? and neither of them ever having measured it, the plaintiff would never have been able to prove the fact, which might tell well enough, and not capable of legal proof.
Convivial Devices.

Some antient authors in cookery inform us, that in former days, when good house-keeping was in fashion among the English nobility, they used either to begin or conclude their entertainments, and divert their guests, with such devices as the following ones—A cattle made in paste-board, with gates, draw-bridges, battlements, and port-cullises, all done over with paste, was set at one end of the table, in a large charger, with salt laid round about it, as if it were the ground, in which were stuck egg-shells full of rose, or other sweet waters, the meat of the egg having been taken out by a great pin. Upon the battlements of the cattle were planted guns made of keces; covered over with paste, and made into the form of cannons, and made to look like brass, by covering them with Dutch leaf gold; these cannons being charged with gunpowder, and trains laid, so that they might fire as many of them as you pleased at one touch. The cattle was not at one end of the table, but in the middle of the table they would see a flag made in paste, but hollow, and filled with red wine, and a broad arrow stuck in the side of him; this being also let in a large charger, with a ground made of salt, and egg-shells of perfumed waters, stuck in it as before; then at the other end of the table they would have the form of a ship, made in paste-board, and covered all over with paste, with masts, sails, flags, and streamers, and guns made of keces, and covered with paste, and charged with gunpowder, with a train as in the cattle; this also a large charger, set up upright, as if it were, a sea of salt, in which are also stuck egg-shells full of perfumed waters; then between the flag and cattle, and flag and ship, were placed two pies, made of coarse paste and filled with bran, and washed over with saffron and yolk of eggs. When these were baked, the bran was taken out, a hole was cut in the bottoms, and live birds put into one, and frogs into the other, and then the holes closed up with paste, then the lids were cut neatly up, so that they might be easily taken off by the funnels, and adorned with gilded laurels. Their being thus prepared, and placed in order on the table, first of all one of the ladies is perused to draw the arrow out of the body of the flag, which being done, the red wine flows out like blood out of a wound, and causes some small admiration in the spectators; which being done, after a little pause, all the guns on one side of the cattle are, by a train, discharged against the ship, and afterwards the guns of one side of the ship against the cattle; then having turned the chargers, the other sides are fired off, as if in a battle. This causing a great thinck of powder, the ladies or gentlemen take up the egg-shells of perfumed water, and throw them at one another. This pleasant disorder being pretty well laughed over, and the two great pyes still remaining untouched, some one or other will have the curiosity to see what is in them, and lifting off the lid of one pye, out jumps the frogs; this makes the ladies skip and scamper, and lifting up the lid of the other, out fly the birds, which will naturally fly at the light, and so put out the candles; and so with the leaping of the frogs below, and flying of the birds above, it did cause a surprizing diverting Hurley-burley amongst the guests in the dark; after which, the candles being lighted, the banquet being bough in, the music founded, and the particulars of each person's surprise and adventures, furnished matter for diverting discourse.