

## THE MASQUERADERS.

### English Lord and American Consul.

We have heard a little about the masqueraders tried before an English court, but not enough to give a clear idea of the affair. The following extract of a London letter to the *New York World* gives the whole story, or near enough to the whole:

The trial of the men in petticoats has been postponed until July, and the case, of which I have already given you some of the main particulars, has assumed a magnitude which will render it one of the most remarkable and probably the most disgusting trial ever heard in an English court. Boulton and Park were arraigned on Thursday, on four different indictments, and pleaded not guilty; and at the request of their counsel, the prosecution consenting, their trial was put off until the next sessions, which will be held in the first week of July. But the grand jury also found indictments against Arthur Pelham Clinton, "commonly known as Lord Arthur Clinton," and five other persons, and warrants for the arrest of these were issued. The warrant for Lord Arthur's arrest was issued some days ago, but it has not yet been executed. One report is that this interesting young nobleman has fled to the continent; another story is that he is hiding in Liverpool. The indictments first charge Boulton and Park with the commission of a "felony;" they then charge them with committing a "felony" in concert with Lord Arthur; with conspiring to solicit other persons to commit this crime, and with "conspiring with Lord Arthur, Martin Luther Cumming, Louis Charles Hurt, C. H. Thomas, William Summerville and John S. Fisk, to attend places of public resort in the disguise of women, thereby outraging public decency and offending against public morals." Boulton was described in the indictment as a clerk, aged 22, and Park as a law clerk, aged 23.

The other persons named in the indictments are called "gentlemen," except Lord Arthur. Who he is I shall presently explain. The "felony" with which he, Park, and Boulton are charged is, in plain words, the crime of sodomy, and the additional crime of enticing other persons to the commission of the same horrible offense, and of extorting money from them as the price of secrecy, or as fees for the gratification afforded. I am given to understand that the prosecution will be able to show that the sum of £2000 was obtained in this way, and that it was in this way that the impecunious Lord Arthur raised the wind for more than a year. Instances are not rare wherein the "fancy men" of prostitutes have lived on the money obtained by their wretched partners; but never before, I fancy, has it been known that a man has lived on the prostitution of another man whom he passed off as his wife.

This is just what Lord Arthur Clinton is accused of having done. To make the long and disgusting story short, it is charged that Lord Arthur played "husband" to Park, and "brother-in-law;" and that he inveigled numbers of young men into the net thus spread, introducing them to Park and Boulton in these characters, and obtaining money from them, either by the comparatively innocent dodge of enlisting their sympathies for lovely women in distress, or by the far more diabolical means of allowing the dupes to believe that they were about to "seduce" the wife and sister-in-law of a nobleman. And here I may relate an incident which happened a couple of months ago, before this case was ever heard of. I was leaning over the battlements of Westminster bridge one evening, watching the busy scene upon the embankment and river below, when a crippled sailor accosted me, and I got into conversation with him. Sailors are apt to be communicative with persons who, like themselves, know something of seafaring life, and this man soon grew quite chatty, and entertained me with an account of some of his adventures in the Royal navy. Among other things, he told me he was once on board a frigate of which Lord Arthur Clinton was one of the officers, and that this nobleman was detected, on a certain occasion, in the act of endeavoring to compel one of the ship's boys to commit with him the very crime for which he is now indicted. The commander of the ship gave Lord Arthur the choice of at once resigning his commission and quitting or being court-martialed, and he wisely chose the former. So that it would seem that Lord Arthur is an old hand at these tricks and has a taste that way.

Now, who is this Lord Arthur Clinton? No doubt you will remember that when the Prince of Wales visited America, ten years ago, he was accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle—a gentleman of noble presence and of equal nobility of character. He died in 1864, and was succeeded by the present duke, the young gentleman who has since become so notorious by his bankruptcy, caused by his losses on the turf. He is thirty-six years old, is married, and has a son five years old, who will succeed to his father's title and such portions of the estates as may be saved out of the wreck by the exertions of Mr. Gladstone, who is the trustee under the will of the late duke.

The family name of the Duke of Newcastle is Pelham-Clinton; and Lord Arthur Clinton is his brother. He, I believe, is about thirty years old; his career has been one of almost unmixed vice, and it has now degenerated into this awful compound of crime and depravity. The dukedom of Newcastle was created in 1756, in the reign of George II, and the present duke is the sixth of his line. There is another and nobler race of Clintons, with which the Pelham-Clintons are only distantly, if at all, related. This is the family of which Trefush is the family name, and of which Baron Clinton is the present representative. The barony was created in 1299, in the reign of Edward I, and the present baron is the nineteenth of his race.

It should be added that John Stafford Fiske, who is one of the parties against whom an indictment has been found for conspiring with Boulton, Park, and the rest of this sweet crowd "to attend places of public resort in the disguise of women, thereby outraging public decency and offending against public morals," is the Consul of the United States at Leith, and that he has been arrested and committed to jail to await his trial. His offense is not a felony, but a misdemeanor; but even that is bad enough. Leith is the port of Edinburgh, and is a place of considerable

commerce, but I do not suppose that the duties of an American consul there are very onerous. It is unfortunate, however, that these duties, such as they are, should be left to a person who can find no better occupation for his leisure moments than engaging in such disreputable games as those which seem to have amused Mr. Fiske. I am quite ignorant of who Mr. Fiske is other than that he is the consul—what part of the United States can lay claim to the honor of having sent him forth or to whom he owes his appointment. Clearly, however, his friends, whoever they are, must be proud of him.

PICCADILLY.