

The Boulton Masquerade.

THE cable telegrams have recently contained almost daily reference to some of the actors in what it generally terms "the Boulton masquerade." As the matter is one that has created much excitement in Great Britain, and as the reports transmitted to this country by telegraph have been merely allusions and not details, it is proper to state for public information the main facts in regard to the so-called "masquerade." Some time since the London police arrested two men named Boulton and Park at a theater in the Strand, dressed in women's clothes. A London paper thus sums up the early developments that attended their trial:

"For more than six months the two young men, whose names are Park and Boulton, have been living in apartments together as ladies, deceiving even their landlord and the servants who waited on them by the excellence of their disguise. In their apartments were found the most complete and expensive collection of ladies' wearing apparel—walking suits, evening and ball costumes, bonnets, chignons, curls, gloves, corsets and underclothing, rouge, pearl powder, jewelry, etc. It was found that they had a very extensive acquaintance among the young bloods of the town, and that noblemen were among their intimates. Witness after witness came forward and told how they had met these "young ladies" at the theatres, in the parks, at the races and elsewhere, had been fascinated by their beauty and grace, and had managed to make their acquaintance. One witness said that he visited them in company with Lord Arthur Clinton, and that although Boulton was on this occasion dressed in men's clothes, both himself and Lord Arthur were convinced that he was a woman. Said the witness: "I treated Boulton as a fascinating woman, and Lord Arthur Clinton appeared to be jealous of me. Boulton went on with me in such a flirting way that I was induced to kiss him, never suspecting that he was a man." There was no end of such evidence as this, but still nothing serious was proved against the prisoners.

"A correspondent describes Boulton, as he stood in the dock, as presenting the appearance of a beautiful woman in male attire. He possesses a graceful form, well rounded, plump and supple, with classical features, hazel eyes, a very pretty and delicate mouth, auburn hair thrown back on a white and low forehead, beautiful and delicate hands, and little feet. The features of Park are coarser, and his look bolder. These two worthies had played at being women so long that the habit had become fixed upon them. They faultlessly assumed the ungraceful carriage of the head, the lithemovement of the body, the girlish voice, and nearly every feminine gesture, look and word. They listened to the shocking evidence adduced against them with apparent indifference, and seemed only impatient for a speedy termination of the case. The alleged complicity of an American consul in the illicit proceedings of these depraved creatures affords the case additional interest on this side."

Ultimately, however, it was developed in the course of the investigation that the "masquerading" was attended with the grossest indecencies and the most degrading and repulsive of crimes, and the British metropolis has been shocked at revelations of debauchery worthy of Sodom. At this point the matter assumed a tragic phase. A man named Peele involved in the matter died suddenly. The most prominent individual, whose name figured in the disgraceful examination, was a son of the late Duke of Newcastle, Lord Arthur Clinton. This young noble had rivalled the Marquis of Hastings in his debauchery, been cashiered from the public service, expelled from the clubs in London, and put without the pale of social recognition. He has also just died suddenly, but before death protested his innocence of the offense charged against him. A telegram received, yesterday, states that four of those implicated in the "masquerade" are now dead, and that the dreadful suspicion has begun to exist that poison is at work removing the witnesses, Lord Clinton's death being considered the result of suicide. Boulton and Park are still in jail, awaiting trial before the Court to which they were bound over after the preliminary examination, and the misnamed "masquerade," with its horrible accessories and its revelations of astounding depravity and its commentary upon nineteenth century civilization, is gaining daily greater and greater notoriety from the singular fates of so many of its participants.