

THE MEN IN PETTICOATS IN LONDON.—A London letter to the World has the following regarding the mysterious men in petticoats;

They were taken before the magistrate at Bow street and there charged—the “ladies” with being men disguised in female apparel, and the men with being in their company for an unlawful purpose. “Why, they are ladies!” exclaimed the magistrate, after keenly looking at them as they stood before him; “the officers, I fear, have made an awkward mistake.” The “ladies,” however, confessed that they were men, but said that they had been simply amusing themselves for a lark. The magistrate was inclined to take this view of the case, and dismiss the prisoners; but the prosecutor made a private communication to him and he remanded them for further examination. Since then, day after day, the young men have been brought up for examination and a most astonishing and ludicrous story was revealed. 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 collections of ladies wearing apparel—walking suits, evening and ball costumes, bonnets, chignons, curls, gloves, corsets and underclothing, rouge, pearl powder, jewelry, &c.

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 their 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. “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 until Saturday last, and people wondered what it all meant. On Saturday, however, your correspondent received a hint that the denouement was at hand, and he went down to the Bow Street Police Court to hear and see for himself.

The Court-room was closely packed with people, and it was with great difficulty that I made my way to the seat reserved for me. Boulton and Park were in the dock, and I took my first view of them. I was prepared to be surprised, but it was with difficulty that I could bring myself to believe that the two prisoners in the dock, dressed as men, were not women. Boulton, as he stood in the dock, had every appearance of a beautiful, but somewhat blase, woman in male attire. Fancy a splendid and graceful form—well rounded, plump and supple, classical features, hazel eyes, a very pretty and delicate mouth, auburn hair thrown back from a white and low forehead, beautiful and delicate hands, and little feet—and you have the idea of Boulton; while for Park, call up the picture of another woman with somewhat of the same air, but with coarser features and a bolder look. I watched the pair for two hours, while the horribly disgusting evidence concerning their nameless crimes was related, and with every moment the surprise at the success of the deception they had so long practised grew less. They had played at being women so long that the habit had become fixed upon them. The mincing, but not ungraceful, carriage of the head; the lithe and supple movement of the body; the weak and girlish accents of their voices—every gesture and look and word was feminine. The evidence of the surgeons who had examined them was damnatory, but they listened to it with petulant impatience and without showing anything like manly indignation. They have been sent on for trial, and are under an indictment.