

A REMARKABLE PERSONAGE.

AMONG the most strange and singular characters that have ever played their part upon the stage of human action, the "*Chevalier d' Eon*," it appears to me, must have been among the most remarkable. Over the birth of this curious personage, there hung a mystery that was never disclosed. Having recently read a biographical sketch of the life and doings of this singular character, and presuming little to be now remembered of him—or her, as the case may have been—I have thought a brief synopsis, or notice of this biography might not be uninteresting to the wonder-loving people, in these dry times for news.

This great personage, who figured so largely in the seventeenth century, at the Courts of England, France and Russia, was born in Burgundy, in the year 1728—so says the "*British Magazine* of 1793," from which these sketches are gathered. "At a very early age, for reasons not yet divulged, her parents made her assume the dress of a boy." She was afterwards sent to France, where she commenced an education "suitable to her supposed sex," and before leaving France, and after having completed her education, was made "Doctor of civil and common law, and was received advocate of the Parliament of Paris." In 1757, she was introduced by the Prince of Conti to Louis XV., to whom the Prince made known the secret of her sex, and recommended her as a suitable person to arrange a matter that Louis had much at heart, a reconciliation between his Court and that of Russia. In this she was, it appears, most eminently successful.

In 1757, she was sent to the same Court with Chevalier Douglass, in the habiliments of a man. On her return to Paris, she was commissioned the same year to communicate the plan of the Russian military campaign, to the Court of Vienna, and while at that Court, news arrived of the famous battle of Prague. "The Count de Broglis entrusted her with despatches to the Court of France, giving an account of

the victory, &c." On her way she was upset in her carriage, and broke her ankle. She, nevertheless, reached Versailles several hours before the courier who was sent from the same Court with similar despatches. She, having a desire to distinguish herself in "deeds of noble daring," received a military commission from her sovereign, and was at the engagement of Ultrop, where she was twice wounded. She was at another engagement at Ostervitch, where, at the head of eighty dragoons and forty hussars, she charged the battalion "*Prussen de Rhes*," which she completely routed, and took the commanding officer prisoner.

In 1762, she was sent as secretary to the ambassador from the court of France to that of England, to conclude the treaty of 1763. She displayed so much shrewdness, dignity and talent, while at that court, in the management of her business, that the King desired she should be the bearer of the ratifications of the treaty of peace to the court of Versailles. She was afterwards appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of England, where she took part in many warm debates, in all of which her talents were readily seen and acknowledged.

In 1777, it appears, from an English journal published in that year, that strong doubts were entertained as to which of the sexes she properly belonged, and from the Chevalier's singularity of dress, it could not easily be determined. Curiosity, it appears, was on tip-toe!—Heavy wagers were laid, and "monstrous frauds," in which the Chevalier was accused of having taken an interest. This matter, however, was finally ended by a somewhat ludicrous trial before Lord Mansfield, on which trial, it was sworn by M. de Morande, that the Chevalier was a woman. The Chevalier, after pretending to be somewhat incensed at the discovery, finally acquiesced, and put on the female dress. Very little, it appears, was heard of the Chevalier after 1778. The French Revolution deprived D' Eon of the pension granted by Louis XV., and the Cheva-