

by the light of a candle carried in the hat of one of the gentlemen. Besides the parties above mentioned, a confidential servant named Ann Cradock was present, she being charged to take care that none of the other servants should have any notice of what was going on. Why it was that the marriage was to be kept secret does not clearly appear. It is alleged because of certain circumstances in Mr. Harvey's family; the tender years of the bridegroom and his inability to maintain his bride, and the probable unwillingness of the latter to forfeit the post she held as maid of honour, may also have had weight in determining to keep the marriage secret. The union resulted in the birth in 1746 of a son, who, however, shortly afterwards died in infancy. This fact also was kept secret from all but a few persons. Thereafter a coolness arose between the parties, and they ceased all cohabitation, the lady continuing to pose as a spinster. In 1759, after she had been living separate from her husband about twelve years, the eldest son of the Earl of Bristol having died, the lady's husband became heir apparent to his father with the immediate possibility of succeeding to the peerage, as his father was ill. His wife then bethought her that, in case such an event happened, it might be desirable to have some authentic record of her marriage. She accordingly proceeded to Winchester where Mr. Aines then lived, and found him, on what proved to be his death bed. A book was procured and an entry of the marriage was made by him therein. This book was sealed up and left with a friend of the lady, to be guarded as a secret not to be disclosed unless required by the lady. The person with whom it was deposited, however, died and the book was found after his death by a member of his family, and being apparently a parish register was forthwith handed over to the rector of the parish of Lainston, in whose custody it subsequently remained, and proved eventually a part of the evidence for the prosecution. The Earl of Bristol having recovered his health, the prospect of the husband's succession to the title became more remote, and the Duke of Kingston having become enamoured of the lady she seems to have resolved that the attractions of a ducal coronet were superior to those of an earl's. In the "*National Biography*" it is said she became the Duke's