

hold words." Not the least well-known of these legal immortals is "the Duchess of Kingston" a frail beauty of the days when George the Second and George the Third were Kings. "The Duchess of Kingston's case" is to be found among Smith's Leading Cases, and it is reported at length in 20 State Trials, p. 355; but probably not very many of those who find the case quoted as authority take the trouble to find out what was the nature of this *cause célèbre*. If they were to do so they would find it really more entertaining than many a novel; and because we believe its particulars are not very generally known we think it worth while to give some account of it.

It is interesting not only for the various questions of law raised in the course of the trial, but also for the romantic incidents which gave rise to the prosecution, because the case was a prosecution before the Peers for bigamy, or polygamy as it is styled in the Royal Commission directing the trial.

One peculiarity about the case is this, that the accused was found guilty and therefore she was not in fact "the Duchess of Kingston," and the case which has been quoted so oft as "the Duchess of Kingston's case" was not really the Duchess of Kingston's, but the Countess of Bristol's.

The case illustrates the loose state of the marriage laws in the time of George II. The heroine of the case was born Elizabeth Chudleigh and at the time of her first marriage she was a maid of honour to the Princess Royal. In the month of June, 1744, she met the Hon. Augustus John Harvey at the Winchester races, he being then a youth of seventeen, and in the Naval service, Miss Chudleigh was then eighteen and she was on a visit at a place near by called Lainston, where her aunt, a Mrs. Hamner, was staying. Lainston was a diminutive parish. It consisted of the house in which Miss Chudleigh was staying and a church which was in the garden of the house. Mr. Harvey visited Miss Chudleigh at this house, and a secret marriage between them was agreed on, and the Rev. Mr. Ames, the parson of Lainston, agreed to solemnize it. About eleven o'clock at night the bridal pair, accompanied by the aunt, Mrs. Hamner, and two gentlemen went to the church in the garden, and the marriage was solemnized