

CONFESSIONS.

[From one of Tennyson's suppressed Poems.]

How sweet to have a common faith!
To hold a common scorn of death!
And at a burial to hear
The creaking cords which wound and eat
Into my human heart whene'er
Earth goes to earth, with grief, not fear,
With hopeful grief, and paining sweet;
A grief not uniform'd and dull
Hearted with hope, of hope as full
As is the blood with life, or night
And a dark cloud with rich moonlight.

Thrice happy state again to be
The trustful infant on the knee;
Who lets his waxen fingers play
About his mother's neck, and knows
Nothing beyond his mother's eyes,
They comfort him by night and day:
They light his little life away;
He hath no thought of coming woes;
He hath no care of life or death;
Scarce outward signs of joy arise,
Because the spirit of happiness
And perfect rest so inward is.

I think that pride hath now no place
Nor sojourn in me. I am void,
Dark, formless, utterly destroy'd.

Why not believe, then? Why not yet
Anchor thy frailty there, where man
Had moor'd and rested? Ask the sea
At midnight, when the crisp slope waves
After a tempest rib and fret
The broad imbed beach, why he
Slumbers not like a mountain tarn;
Wherefore his ridges are not curv'd
And ripples of his inland mere;
Wherefore he meaneth thus, nor can
Draw down into his vexed pools
All that blue heaven which hues and paves
The other. I am too forlorn,
Too shaken; my own weakness foils
My judgment, and my spirit whirls,
Moved from beneath with doubt and fear.

WHICH?

A MAN IN WOMAN'S DRESS.

THE STRANGE LIFE OF THE CHEVALIER
D'EON—HOW HE FOR YEARS PERSONATED A
WOMAN—HIS CASE IN THE COURTS—SUR-
MISES AS TO HIS REASONS.

A few weeks ago, remarks the Milwaukee Sentinel, there was printed in these columns an account of a woman who had for years been driving a cab in London, without any suspicion arising as to her sex. There have been many remarkable instances of similar concealment—notably one which came to light in England a few years ago, at the death of an assistant inspector general of army hospitals, by name Barry. The history of that extraordinary person will, in all probability, never be known, and the causes and early circumstances of her extraordinary career are almost beyond conjecture. One fact, however, about her was beyond question—that she continuously had friends in very high places. Barry, who had always shown herself ready to fight a duel, and permitted no jokes as to her feminine appearance, displayed the utmost anxiety up to the very last to conceal her sex, and made the attendant on her last hours promise to bury her just as she then was. But an examination was insisted on. These, however, are cases of women personating men. Let us turn to one more remarkable, that of a man personating a woman—the Chevalier D'Eon. Charles D'Eon de Beaumont, advocate of the parliament of Paris, and Censor General of Belles Lettres and History in that city, was born in Burgundy in 1727, of highly respectable parentage, received a superior education, and was called to the Parisian bar. In 1755 he was introduced to Louis XV. by the Prince de Conti, and it is said that thenceforward he maintained a secret correspondence with that sovereign. On this mission he went for the first time in female attire. The object of the visit was to approach the Empress Elizabeth with the view of putting an end to the ill-feeling between the French and Russian courts, and more especially to promote the private interests of his patron, the Prince de Conti, with the empress. The next year he went to St. Petersburg as secretary of embassy. During the next two years he was actively employed in intrigue and negotiation. Meanwhile he had been appointed a lieutenant of dragoons; in 1758 he was made a captain; and a few years later distinguished himself in several engagements. In 1761 he was appointed secretary of embassy to the Duc de Nivernois, who came to England as ambassador extraordinary, to conclude a peace, and certainly brought an extraordinary secretary.

THE CHEVALIER'S TROUBLES,

which he attributed to the jealousy of Madame Pompadour when she discovered his secret correspondence with the King, now began. Walpole mentions D'Eon coming to breakfast at Strawberry Hill with a large party of French people in May, 1763. Not long after this Nivernois was recalled, and Count de Guerchy appointed in his place. In the interval between the departure of the one and the arrival of the other, D'Eon, who was appointed plenipotentiary meanwhile, conducted himself in a surprising manner. The temporary position of Ambassador seemed to entirely turn his head. "D'Eon," writes Walpole to Lord Hertford, in November, 1763, "is still here; I know nothing more of him but that the honor of having a hand in the peace upset his poor brain. This was evident on that fatal night at Lord Halifax's." (Where he behaved in a most violent manner in the presence of M. De Guerchy.) "When told him his behavior was a breach of the peace, he was quite distracted, thinking it was the peace between this country and his." When Count De Guerchy arrived and brought letters to recall D'Eon he declined to accept them, alleging them to be forged, and refused to vacate the office. Presently, to gratify his rage, he published a pamphlet reflecting on eminent Freshmen, more especially the Count De Guerchy, and this nobleman, in 1764, prosecuted him for libel, and obtained a conviction. Walpole comments amusingly on this to Mann: "D'Eon's book will divert you extremely. He told people in the park the other day that Mme. de Guerchy (who is remarkably plain), is going to Paris to take Mme. de Pompadour's place. We do not hear that it is seriously filled up; I mean the cabinet, for in the bed chamber it has long been executed by deputies." D'Eon's next move to obtain notoriety was to assert that the French government intended to carry him off privately by force, and he wrote to complain of this to Chief Justice Mansfield, Lords Bute and Temple, and Mr. Pitt, and in March, 1764, a bill of indictment was, on his allegation, found against the Count de Guerchy, for a conspiracy against the chevalier's life, a circumstance, which, in the case of an ambassador, much perplexed the government. Further proceedings were evaded. In June, 1765, as he had failed to come up for judgment, in the libel suit, he was

DECLARED OUTLAWED,

and, on May 20, 1771, a caveat was entered at Doctors' Commons against his goods, he being supposed to be dead, as he had been advertised for in vain. But not long after the Chevalier turned up, refreshed himself with a duel or two, and it was a wound received in one of these which led to the serious suspicion that he was a woman. Out of this arose a trial which amazed all London. The cause came on before Lord Mansfield on July 1, 1777. The plaintiff was Mr. Hayes, a surgeon, who brought the suit, for the recovery of £700, against Mr. Jacques, a broker, the said Jacques having, about six years before, received certain premiums of fifteen guineas per cent., for every one of which he stood engaged to return 100 guineas whenever it should be proven that the Chevalier D'Eon was actually a woman. The counsel for the plaintiff was Mr. Bullers, afterward famous as a judge, who said

that Mr. Hayes believed himself now to be in possession of positive proof of D'Eon's being a female. He called Mr. Le Goux, a surgeon, who stated that "he had been acquainted with the Chevalier D'Eon from the time when the Duc de Nivernois resided in England as French ambassador, and that to his certain knowledge the person called the Chevalier D'Eon was a woman. On cross-examination, Mr. Le Goux stated that he had arrived at this knowledge in the course of a medical attendance on the Chevalier. Then M. De Morande was called, who gave equally strong evidence in support of that of Mr. Le Goux. Lord Mansfield then charged the jury: "Gentlemen, this is a gambling debt. I should be glad if your verdict could so operate that neither party should be the winner; but as one must lose, you have only to consider which of them ought to win. With respect to the contract on which the action was founded, there is not anything illegal in it. It is binding on both parties. The discovery of the sex of a certain person is to give it operation. There was every external proof that the defendant was right in his conjecture. D'Eon dressed as a man. She would have fought duels. She was a captain of dragoons. Resided here as an ambassador. To all outward appearance, therefore, the defendant had the best of the wager. On the part of the plaintiff there was considerable difficulty. Suppose him to have been right, yet the proof was not easy. It was not in the power of any one to compel D'Eon to disclose her or his sex. Was it known, the proof still rested on the plaintiff. It was thrown out that he was sure of the fact at the time he laid the wager. The contrary had appeared. He had

NO PROOFS IN HIS POWER

when the contract was made. The court of France was not apprised of the fact. It regarded D'Eon as a man." The jury gave for plaintiff £702. On the 13th of the same month the Chevalier left England, declaring in the most solemn manner that she had no interest whatever in the policies opened respecting her sex, and that "she left dear England with grief, where she thought to have found repose and liberty." The case was subsequently argued before Lord Mansfield on behalf of the defendant, and the defendant pleading that under the terms of a recent act of Parliament payment was not binding on him in such a case, this was admitted and the bets were lost. D'Eon arrived at Versailles in 1777 in the uniform of the dragoons, but to satisfy the curiosity of the queen assumed presently the dress of a woman. In 1784 he returned again to London, where the French revolution of 1789 found him. It appears by the records of the national assembly in May, 1792, that he petitioned the assembly, as Madame D'Eon, to be allowed to serve in the army. Madame stated that "though she had worn the dress of a woman for 15 years, she was desirous of doffing cap and petticoat for helmet and saber." The petition was received with great applause, but no other result, and as the republican authorities had taken away a pension granted him by Louis XV., he returned to England and gave lessons in fencing, an accomplishment in which he was admirably proficient. The previous year he had advertised the sale of his effects, which included various articles of female attire. He died in London, in poverty, in 1810, although a French authority states that he had a pension of £200 a year from George III. His assumption of female attire seems to have arisen at first out of an exigency, and was probably continued for purposes of various kinds. A most ridiculous surmise is that it was adopted at one time to cover an intrigue with poor Queen Charlotte, who certainly never before had been suspected of such indiscretion, and a French commentator observes: "We may be permitted a doubt on this point." D'Eon seems to have been a vain, excitable creature, who loved notoriety and had a restless craving for excitement, to satisfy which he would have done anything. A post mortem examination was made by eminent French and English surgeons which left no doubt of his being of the male sex.

HERE ARE YOUR CENTENNIALS.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTION.

The New York Commercial Advertiser gives a list of all the important battles of the revolution. They began April 19, 1775. They closed October 19, 1781—six years and six months. The British sent 134,000 soldiers and sailors to this war. The colonists met them with 230,000 continentals and 50,000 militia: The British let loose Indians and equally savage Hessians. The Colonists had for allies the brave and courteous Frenchmen. The leading battles of the war, those particularly worthy of celebration, are Concord and Lexington, Bunker Hill, Long Island, White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Bennington, Saratoga, Monmouth, King's Mountain, Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, and Yorktown. These are of National interest. Many of the others are more especially local. The disposition is to celebrate them all, victories and defeats—to recall the deeds of our ancestors, and have a good time generally. Our readers will do well to preserve the following list of Revolutionary battles:

- Lexington (first skirmish)—April 19, 1775.
- Ticonderoga—May 10, 1775.
- Bunker Hill—June 17, 1775.
- Montreal (Ethan Allen taken)—September 25, 1775.
- St. Johns besieged and captured—November 3, 1775.
- Great Bridge, Va.—December 9, 1775.
- Quebec (Montgomery killed)—December 31, 1775.
- Moore's Creek Bridge—February 27, 1776.
- Boston (British fled)—March 17, 1776.
- Fort Sullivan, Charleston—June 28, 1776.
- Long Island—August 27, 1776.
- Harlem Plains—September 16, 1776.
- White Plains—October 28, 1776.
- Fort Washington—November 16, 1776.
- Trenton—December 26, 1776.
- Princeton—January 3, 1777.
- Hubbardton—July 7, 1777.
- Bennington—August 16, 1777.
- Brandywine—September 11, 1777.
- First battle at Bemis's Heights, Saratoga—September 19, 1777.
- Paoli—September 20, 1777.
- Germantown—October 4, 1777.
- Forts Clinton and Montgomery taken—October 6, 1777.
- Second battle at Bemis's Heights, Saratoga—October 7, 1777.
- Surrender of Burgoyne—October 13, 1777.
- Fort Mercer—October 22, 1777.
- Fort Mifflin—November 16, 1777.
- Monmouth—June 28, 1778.
- Wyoming, July 4, 1778.
- Quaker Hill, R. I.—August 29, 1778.
- Savannah—December 29, 1778.
- Kettle Creek, Ga.—February 14, 1779.
- Brier Creek—March 3, 1779.
- Stony Ferry—June 20, 1779.
- Stony Point—July 16, 1779.
- Paulus's Hook—August 19, 1779.
- Chemung (Indians)—August 29, 1779.
- Savannah—October 9, 1779.
- Charlestown (surrendered to British)—May 12, 1780.
- Springfield—June 23, 1780.
- Rocky Mount—July 30, 1780.
- Hanging Rock—August 6, 1780.
- Sander's Creek, near Camden—August 16, 1780.
- King's Mountain—October 7, 1780.
- Fish Dam Ford, Broad River—November 18, 1780.
- Blackstocks—November 20, 1780.
- Cowpens—January 17, 1781.
- Guiboro—March 15, 1781.
- Hockirk's Hill—April 25, 1781.
- Ninety-Six (besieged)—May and June, 1781.
- Augusta (besieged)—May and June, 1781.
- Jamestown—July 9, 1781.
- Eutaw Springs—September 8, 1781.
- Yorktown (Cornwallis surrendered)—October 19, 1781.