WAS QUEEN ELIZABETH A "FAMOUS IMPOSTOR"?

Strong Resemblance to Perkin

Warbeck Helped the Latter's

Claim to the Throne in Henry

fixed places in the great world and in

As to the identity of the "boy" who

VII.'s Reign.

Chevalier D'Eon, Noted French Diplomat and Soldier of the 18th Century, Who Frequently Donned Feminine Carb.

HAT "Good Queen Bess" was not of the blood royal that bluff King Harry and his ill-fated Queen Anne Boleyn had no part in her, that she was a changeling, andmore startling than all-that "she" was not a woman; but "a great big lubberly "boy," is the latest historical theory, as propounded by Mr. Bram Stoker in his new book. "Famous Impostors." which will be published shortly by the Sturgis & Walton Company. Moreover, in elaborating this theory Mr. Stoker is not indulging-consciously at least-in any mere romance: he is not giving us a new

"Dracula," but a serious interpretation of certain historical facts, backed up by King Edward IV. of England, Whose documents and "evidence," of a sort. from all of which it appears that, whether his readers follow him or not. Mr. Stoker. for one, believes that Elizabeth, in spite of her little fligtations with Leitester, Essex. and the rest of them, was a man forced by a cruel fate to masquerade as a

To this grand imposture of history Mr. the social-life of their own neighborhood." Stoker leads up dramatically by recounting authentic cases of other impostors, passed through life as Queen Elizabeth. some of them similar to that of Eliza- Mr. Stoker advances several possibilities, beth, his whole book presenting a curi- none of which however, are "as yet" ous collection of humanity's frauds. Thus susceptible of proof. One of these possihe has the story of La Maupin, the pro-bilities is that this "boy" was the actotype in real life of Gautier's famous knowledged son of Henry Fitzroy, Duke heroine; the "Chevalier D'Eon." Perkin of Richmond and natural son of Henry Warbeck, reputed son of Edward IV.; VIII.; Had that been the case this mas-Arthur Orton, claimant to the estates culine Elizabeth would have still been the and title of Tichborne, and a host of direct descendant of her supposed father. witches, magicians, fakers, that have en- And a further development of this theory livened the pages of history if they have is that the mother of this Elizabeth was

Mr. Stoker quotes numerous passages as yet, we know nothing. in letters, histories, &c., showing that Mr. Stoker does not claim that there is "throughout the early life of Queen proof of this parentage of his "Bisley cret was apparently known to a Mistress!

With this preliminary hint of mystery Mr. type (Anne Boleyn was a brunette.) her verifying his sex." of Bisley.

had the sort of temper which did not is that of the Chevalier D'Eon, a noted himself 'La Chevalier D'Eon.' living girl child who could be passed off for the Princess.

"But here again was a check. Through out the little village and its surroundings reasonably suitable for the purpose required. More than ever distracted, for time was flying by, she determined to take the greater risk of a boy substitute if a boy could be found." And. course, there was a boy available-"just such a boy as would suit the special nurpose for which he was required, a boy well known to the governess, for the littie Princess had taken a fancy to him and had lately been accustomed to play with him. Moreover, he was a pretty boy, as might have been expected from the circumstance of the little Lady Elizabeth having chosen him as her playmate. He was close at hand and available. So he was clothed in the dress of the dead child. they being of about equal stature." - King Henry, it is said, suspected nothing during his visit, as Elizabeth had always feared him and there had never been any of the intimacies of father and daughter

between them. This is the tradition, and, according to Mr. Stoker, it still exists in the neighborhood of Bisley. There is also this corroborating addition to be made to it:

"When the governess wished to hide the secret hurriedly she hid the body, inunding it to be only traporarily, in the stone coffin which lay in the garden ar Overcourt, outside the Princess's window. Some tens of years ago the bones of a young girl, lying amidst rags of fine clothing, were found in the stone coffin. The finder was a churchman-a man of the highest character and a member of a celebrated ecclesiastical family. The said finder firmly belived in the story of the Bisley boy. Beforé Elizabeth came to the throne all those who knew the secret of ! the substitution were in some way got rid of or their silence assured. The name of the substituted youth was Neville; or such was the name of the family with whom he was living at the time. There are several persons in the neighborhood of Bisley who accept the general truth of the story, even if some of the minor details appear at first glance to be inharmonious. These persons are not of the ordinary class of gossipers, but men and comer of light and leading who have

Mr. Bram Stoker-Brings Together Some of the Notable "Frauds" of History in Proof of His Theory That "Good Queen Bess". Was a Man.

Mary Howard Duchess of Richmond, Supposititious _ Arthur Orton, Illiterate Son of a Butcher, Who Claimed Mother of Queen-Elizabeth.

to be the Heir to the Tichborne Millions.





Century.

"Count" Cagliostro, the Famous ""Wonder-Worker" of the 18th

Mrs. (" Princess ") Olive Serres, Who Claimed the British Throne on the Ground of Her Alleged Descent from the Duke of Cumberland, King George III.'s Brother.

she kept religiously guarded." This se-sibility, there having been something the rumor that he really was a woman, soon after her marriage she learned pro-pardoned." "mysterious" apparently in the marital "His clean shaven face, his personal ficiency as a swordsman, and apparently | Ashley, the Princess's governess, and was relations of the Duke and Duchess of niceties, the correctness of his life, all, from this circumstance, conceived the ures, characterized by the surprising mas-

position—all of which might have come by D'Eon's carcer—an incident that at the two sought refuge in a convent, where artistic powers were worn out. Thither, according to tradition, "the lit- descent from one or both of the Rich- time seemed to lend plausibility to the they remained in safety for a few days. Thither, according to tradition. The first here is the rumors that he was a woman—transpired While they were there one of the nums which it was grafted, remained. For a being illest the time. The deluded wo- toria. At first her claims were laughed hood, was sent away with her governess tradition of the death of the real Elizabeth in the reign of Louis XVI. On returning died. In order to get the girl with whom whole year she maintained a never-failing for change of air. While she was there and of the substitution in her stead of a to France from England "he presented she had run away out of the convent struggle for her old supremacy, but withword came that the King was coming male child of unknown parentage. And if himself at Versailles in his full uniform without detection, La Maupin substituted out avail. Seeing that all was lost, she to see his little daughter. Shortly before this tradition is not susceptible of a captain of dragoons. The Queen, her for the dead body of the nun, which left the stage and returned to her husband his arrival, however. "the child devel- proof, there are at least corroborating cir- (Marie Antoinette,) however, wished to was then awaiting burlal, and by this who, realizing that she was rich, managed oped acute fever, and before steps could cumstances, according to Mr. Stoker, that see him presented in female dress; so the means eluded the pursuit of the trate to reconcile whatever shreds of honor he be taken even for her proper attendance bring it into the realm of the possible. minister implored him to meet her wishes. father and succeeded in landing her vic- had to her infamous record. The Church. One of the most surprising cases in his- He consented; and thenceforward not tim in a neighboring village, first setting too, accepted her-and her riches-within

> of Russia—he appears in the rôle of a wo- cut in pieces at the first sound of the habit." man, " and in this guise he was able to cannon shots."

to France whence he was immediately troversy, and sometimes of obloquy, with In that garb she treated a fellow-guest, dence, pointed to this relationship." sent again to St. Petersburg with the title his contemporaries.

countries in which their lives ran their Richmond, the child being the fruit of he went in his man's clothes, and as the emoiselle de Maupin" had a real person of whom, when the consequent fight came "some ante-matrimonial liaison of which, brother of the pretended female reader." for a herolne, an opera singer in Paris. on, she ran through the body, after which D'Eon became one of the leading French | married at an early age to a man named | she returned to the ball. Shortly afterdiplomats, but the fact that he had won Maupin, at the end of the seventeenth ward she fought and wounded a man, his first diplomatic "case" by donning century. From her lover, for she ac- M. de Servan, who had affronted a wom-Elizabeth there was some secret which boy." but advances it merely as a pos- feminine attire led his enemies to spread quired a lover, who as a notable fencer, an. For these escapades she was again

believed to have some connection with Richmond. Such a descent, too, would ex-came to the aid of that supposition. In idea of passing through life thenceforth culinity and swordsmanship that had be-Elizabeth's repeated and emphatic asser- plain some of the physical-peculiarities of England bets were made and sporting as a man. In this assumed rôle she come second nature with La Maupiu, and vations that she would never marry. Elizabeth-her being of distinctly blonde companies formed for the age of the latter with whom he came in con- right to the British throne, she adduced. a rich Marseilles merchant and ran away to go back to the operatic stage. But she tact. Stoker introduces us to the Manor House vigorous intellect and her imperious dis- The most singular incident, however, in with her. Upon their being pursued, the found herself "prematurely old and her feared to tell her father-Henry VIII. lory of a man masquerading as a woman only wore women's clothes, but called fire to the convent in order to cover up its sheltering portals. By the aid of a her departure. She was captured several tolerant priest she got absolution, and two make for the happiness of those around diplomat and favorite of King Louis XV. "In a letter addressed by him to Mme. weeks after, not without displaying her years after her retirement from the opera him." The nurse thereupon hid the body whose exploits extended into the days of De Siaël during the French Revolution skill as a swordsman to good effect, kill- she died in a convent in all the odor of and scoured the neighborhood for some republican France: According to Mr. he spoke of himself as 'citizeness of the lug and wounding several of her pursu-l'sanctity." Stoker's account of this singular being, New Republic of France, and of the old ers. La Maupin was condemned to the . Mr. Stoker gives a number of "royal he was a man of remarkable bravery, per- Republic of Literature.' He wrote to the stake, as a result of this escapade, but frauds," among them that of Perkin Warsonal address and intelligence who was Count de Maurepas, although I detest succeeded, by practicing various feminine beck, who claimed to be the heir to the employed in various delicate missions by changes of costume, yet they are hard wiles, in making her escape and returned British throne through Edward IV., his rewas to be found no little girl of an age his royal master. On one of the first of at work at Mile. Bertin's on my future to Paris in 1695. There she "entered on puted father. Margaret, a sister of Ed-

la woman, with indecency; and she was

There followed various similar advent-

"Still, her pluck, and the obstinacy on

these missions to the Empress Elizabeth and doleful dress, which, however, I shall, a course of violence which became a ward, for reasons of her own, coached who appeared against him. The trial, himself invisible; indeed, to perform all Warbeck in the course he pursued to at | lasting 102 days, was lost to Orion who For some years she flourished and tain his ends. Mr. Stoker inclines to the lectured afterward that "he would have creen-into the good graces of the Em- The Chevaller lived to the age of 80, exercised all the tyrannies of her own belief that Warbeck was a natural son of won if only he could have kept his mouth press. He became her 'reader' and was and although there is now no doubt as sex and in addition those habitual to Edward, whom he very much resembled shut." thus enabled to prepare her for the re- to his being a man, and a brave one at men which came from expert use of the in outward appearance as well as in cerception; of the secret purposes of his that, his periodical lapses into feminine sword. Thus, she went attired as a man tain touches of character, declaring that King. In the following year he returned apparel made him ever an object of con- to a ball given by a Prince of the blood, it not of evi- was brought against Orton, who was



"The Bisley Boy," Known to History as Queen Elizabeth.

herents, among them King James IV. of Crion died in 1898, and upon his coffin in Scotland, who married him to his kins-the inscription: Sir Roger Charles Doughts woman. He was finally defeated by King Tichborne; born, 5th January, 1829; died! was hung at Tyburn in 1499.

One of the most famous impostors of his attention was drawn to the advertise. modern times cited at length by Mr. | ment for the missing Roger, he had never Stoker occurred in the last century—the even heard of the name of Tichbornesand Tichborne case, in which Arthur Orton- it was only his success when, by war of who died only twelve years ago-the illit- a joke upon a chum, he claimed to be the erate son of a butcher, was the central missing baroner, that led hind to pursue figure. The story reads like the veriest the matter in sober earnest. Indeed. he romance of the professional maker of seemed at first very reluctant to leave fiction, and at this day it seems hard to Australia, and probably the was conly believe that so unpromising a man as Orton could have "divided England for years into two great parties "-those who believed in him and those who did not. On the 21st of March, 1853, Roger Tichborne, heir to the ancient house of Tichborne, set sail from Havre for Valparaiso. For over a year he traveled in South America, and then, on the 20th of April, 1854, he sailed on the Bella for Jamaica. aimed at nothing short of establishing her But from the day that the Bella left port claim to the British throne, and who suc-"no one ever set eyes upon her-excepting ceeded in giving to this claim, ridiculous that six days after she left harbor a ship and complicated though it was, some traversing her path found; amongst other semblance of plausibility, was Mrs. Oliva ominous tokens of a wreck, a capsized Serres, or "Princess Olive," as she chose longboat bearing the name Bella. Liver- to be called. pool." Search was made by the Tich- This "Princess" and a brother were the bornes in the desperate hope that Roger children of a Warwickshire painter. Robmight have been picked up by some pass- ert Wilmot, and his wife, Anna Maria ing vessel, but no hint of any such rescue Olive was a painter of sufficient merit could be discovered and Roger's relatives to have exhibited her work in the Royald gave him up for lost-all except his Academy in 1794, and to be appointed. mother, who persisted in the belief that landscape painter to the Prince of Wales later be brought back to her.

Roger's description had been found in -none other than James Wilmot, D. D. New South Wales. This man proved to With these accomplishments and by be Arthur Orton, who finding Lady Tich- | means of some clever forgeries Mrs. borne eager to identify him as her son, Serres fabricated a specious story, through left New South Wales, having first mas- which she claimed descent from the Duke tered many of the details of the Tichborne of Cumberland, brother of George III. At family history from an old negro retainer the same time, in order to establish her

He met Lady Tichborne in Paris. Their III.'s marriage, and thus cast a doubt first interview took place in his hotel bed- on the legitimacy of his descendants, man professed to recognize him at once." at but it remained for her daughter. Mrs. and although he confessed everything in Ryves, to bring them before the Lord their subsequent conversation, she ac- Chief Justice, who, after a prolonged cepted him as her son and allowed him hearing, finally disposed of them, titus £1,000 a year for the support of himself, settling, once for all, an agitation, that his wife and children. "It did not weigh threatened to assume, in the minds of with her that the rest of the family some people, the importance of a political unanimously declared him to be an impostor, nor that he failed to recognize them

Four years after this Orton brought suit to eject Sir Alfred Tichborne, the posthumous son of Roger's vounger brother, edge of chemistry, while still a boy, to ing-over one hundred witnesses who, on worker that, as time progressed, brought outh, identified him as Roger Tichborne: him scores of victims. "He pretended to

It was not until a subsequent trial, lasting. 188 days, in-1874, that a final verdict sentenced to fourteen years, penal servi-Warbeck succeeded in gaining many ad- ude for the fraud he had perpetrated.

According to Orton's confession. Auntil driven to accede to Lady Tichborne's red quest to return home at once by the facil that he had raised large sums of money on his expectations. His original intelled tion was probably to obtain some sort of recognition, and then to return to Aus+ tralia with whatever money he had succeeded in collecting."

An eighteenth century impostor; who

her son was living and would sooner or in 1806. She was a novelist, a press writer, an occasional poet, and in many wars not iluminated the particular times and Mary Howard. afterward Duchess of of Secretary of Embassy. But this time, Few people realize that Gautier's "Mad-challenged by three different men—each James Tiehborne, Lady Tiehborne adver-forms of occultism, and could cast Noro-continuous tiebt cases. tised for the lost heir. This was eleven scopes: she wrote, in addition to at years after the wreck of the Bella, and as pamphlet on the same subject, a book a result of her efforts she learned through on the writings of Junius, claiming to a Sydney agency that a man answering to have discovered the identity of the author

> "proofs" affecting the legality of George issue.

The famous "Count" Cagliostro figures: or to recall any incident in Roger's life. as another of Mr. Stoker's impostors. Het was a Sicilian peasant by birth, but of undoubted talents; by means of which he the wonders of the sichemist, the 'cheaus jack' and the charlatan.

He married a clever and beautiful Italian woman, the daughter of a lacemaker, and assuming the title of Comte de Cagliostro, traveled through the mancipal cities of Europe, acquiring fame and incidentally, a fortune by his claims to occult powers. In the practice of The art "he was aided by a young worlians whom he described as pure as an angel and of great sensibility. The said young person kept her blue eyes fixed on a globe full of water. Then he proceeded! to expound the Great Secret, which he told his hearers had been the same since the beginning of things and whose inystory had been guarded by Templars of the Rosy Cross, by Magicians, by Eggptians, and the like. He had claimed; as he Comie de Saint-Germain said, that he and already existed for many centuriera hat he was a contemporary of Christa and that he had predicted His crucifixion by the Jews. As statements of this kinds were made mainly for the purpose of selling the clixir which he peddled, it may, asily be imagined that he did not shrink; rom lying or blasphemy when such seemed to suit his purpose. Daring and ecklessness in his statements seemed to urther his business success, so prophecy -or rather boastings of prophecy after he event-became part of the great.

In France Cagliostro became involved in he famous "Diamond Necklace Affair." the forgery which played so important , part in the subsequent fate of the unortunate Marie Antoinette. The "Count" nd his wife, however, were acquitted f the charges brought against them inhis connection, and resumed their profitble travels in Europe. In 1789 Cagliostro was condemned to

eath as a Free Mason at Rome. The unishment was commuted to perpatual nprisonment, a sentence under which lie fed in the Château de Saint Leon, near lome. His wife was condenued to perefurth seclusion, and died in the Convent

Copyright © The New York Times