

## MARY READ AND ANNE BONNEY.

Two female pirates named Mary Read and Anne Bonney being frequently mentioned incidentally by historians, the following particulars of them may be worth preserving. The first, Mary Read, was an officer's widow, who assumed the dress of a man, and shipped as a sailor, but the vessel being captured by the pirates who hailed from the island of Providence, she remained among them, and was as lawless and savage as any of their number. On her trial it was declared by her companions, that in time of action, no person on board was more resolute, or ready to board, or to undertake any thing that was hazardous, than she and Anne Bonney; that on one occasion, when they were attacked and captured, none kept the deck except these two women and a single sailor. They called to those below, to come up and fight like men; but finding they did not obey, Mary Read fired her arms down the hold, killed one of the crew and wounded several others. This charge she denied, though it would seem she was not deficient in bravery, for on one occasion she challenged one of the pirates and fought him on shore for some offence to her lover.

Johnson relates a curious anecdote of these two females; so completely was Mary Read disguised by her dress, that sailing in company with Anne Bonney, the latter actually fell in love with her.

Mary was tried and found guilty by the English courts, but died of a fever in prison.

Anne Bonney's history as related by Johnson, entitles her to a place in the annals of the most infamous of her sex. She went to sea with the piratical Captain Rackman, and bore him company in many of his expeditions, no body on board being more courageous, or ready to lend a hand in perpetrating the darkest deeds of blood. It appears she was reprieved from time to time after conviction, and was not executed, though what became of her is not known.