

WOMEN AS MEN.

Romantic Adventures of Venturesome Females.

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The case of the poor little sea apprentice "Hans Brandt," who the other day fell into the hold of the bark *Ida* of Pensacola, at West Hartlepool, and was killed, adds one more name to the long list of women who, for one reason or another, have put aside the garments of their sex and have donned the habits and imitated the ways of men. Not until "Hans Brandt's" body was being prepared for burial was it discovered that the *Ida's* apprentice was a girl. Why she disguised herself and why she shipped are questions to which no sure answer can be given. An uncomfortable home or possibly nothing worse than a craving for adventure may supply the explanation. Both causes, it is well known, have operated in the past, but although domestic trouble has undoubtedly led many women thus to disguise themselves, the commoner stimulus, it would appear, is provided by that love of change and excitement which at one period of life takes possession of almost every one.

Romantic ideas were notoriously the disposing causes in the celebrated case of Anne Jane Thornton. Her father, who was comfortably off, was very kind to her, but at the impressionable age of thirteen she met Alexander Burke, an American sea captain, and when he went to New York she determined to leave her home in Donnegal and follow him. She succeeded in shipping as a cabin boy and in reaching America, but she there discovered that Capt. Burke was married, and so resolved to return as she had come. She shipped as cook and steward, first in the *Adelaide*, then in the *Rover*, and finally in the *Surah*, Capt. McEntire, and was returning in the last-named ship to London in 1834 when her sex was by accident discovered. She had then been for nearly three years absent from home. Upon reaching England she appeared before the lord mayor, to whom Capt. McEntire stated in court that Miss Thornton had done duty as a seaman in a most admirable way, and that she had behaved herself with the utmost propriety. A few kindly people undertook to send her home. What afterward befell her is unknown.

About forty years ago a far more extraordinary instance of successful disguise was a current topic of gossip in the army. An army surgeon served successfully at the Cape, at Malta, and at Barbados. This person was a small, thin, wrinkled individual, with a little voice, an effeminate aspect, and strong vegetarian opinions. At the Cape he actually fought a duel with an officer who, at the mess table, had called him a woman; yet in spite of that "he" was a woman, though the fact was not discovered until, having reached high rank in his profession, he died in London, enjoying the honors of surgeon general to the army. Dr. James Barry, as this lady was called, was well known in military circles. Many officers who can remember here are still alive.

Among other examples are the cases of Ann Bonny and Mary Read, who, dressed as men, were fearsome buccaneers on the Spanish main in their day. Hannah Snell is another example. Born in 1723, she married a Dutch sailor, who deserted her. Hannah went in pursuit, first as a soldier and then as a marine. She was several times wounded, but always managed to conceal her sex, and might, perhaps, have concealed it for many years longer had she so desired. But, having learned that her faithless spouse had been executed for murder, she proclaimed herself and returned to England. Yet another female sailor began her false career by running away at the age of thirteen, in the year 1752, with her sweetheart. To avoid discovery she started as a boy, and, liking the disguise, she afterwards went to sea in it. Returning, she obtained articles of apprenticeship with one Angel, of Southwark, and secured the affections of a girl named Mary Parlour, whom she went so far as to marry. When Mary, upon discovering the imposition, was indignant, Samuel Bundy, as the other called herself, joined a man-of-war. She subsequently, however, returned to her "wife," who forgave her, and the pair appear to have "lived happily ever after" as small tradespeople in the borough. Similar cases might be multiplied to a great extent, but one more will suffice. On the 20th of January, 1667, an only daughter, Anne, was born to a London lawyer, Dr. Edward Chamberlayne. Inclined to adventure, the girl, probably with the knowledge of her brother Clifford, seems to have entered as a man on board his ship, the *Griffin*, which was engaged in the action with the French of Beachy Head in 1690, of which vessel the brother was commander. She fought bravely; and soon after her return married a John Spragg, but died in childbirth on the 6th of November, 1691, and was buried in Chelsea church, where a monument, upon which some of the facts are set forth, was erected to her memory. Mr. Spragg, or Spragge, is believed to have been a near relation—probably a son—of the gallant Admiral Sir Edward Spragge who fell in action with the Dutch in 1673, and there are grounds for suspecting that the child, which cost its mother her life, was Capt. Edward Spragge, who commanded the *Princess Amelia* in 1744, who died in 1757.