

## PREFERRED JAIL TO WEARING SKIRTS.

Byron's "Prisoner of Chillon" made some remarks about the friendly attachment which existed between himself and his chains, but it has remained for a St. Louis woman, in the very midst of the emancipation era, to decide to go to jail rather than give up the convenient little habit she had acquired of wearing trousers. For fourteen years she has been making her way about in the world clad in all the regulation accoutrements of a man. When her masquerade was finally discovered, the tender-hearted judge before whom she appeared offered to provide her with skirts and suspend the sentence which he would otherwise feel called upon to pass upon her. The alternative was that she would have to go to jail, in conformity with the laws made and provided to keep at least a part of the population from pretending to be men when they were nothing of the kind.

Mrs. Augusta Seib—known all this while as "Gus" Seib—guessed she would go to jail. It was not in any spirit of obstinacy or bravado that she refused to accept the lenient alternative of the court. It was not even a conscious tribute to the superiority of the lords of creation. She simply said that she had become so accustomed to trousers that if she were to exchange them for the attire appropriate to her sex she would feel so awkward that she would undoubtedly be arrested as a man attempting to masquerade as a woman. It would require all the art of an Elizabethan actor playing Rosalind in hose and doublet, and she didn't feel equal to it.

Of course, the law is specific in such cases, and the tender-hearted judge could do nothing but send her up. For fifty-six days, therefore, she is to do what she can, in prison garb, toward becoming accustomed to the skirts she discarded several lustrums ago. The advocates of emancipation should not judge her too harshly, however, for, after all, the situation, in one particular, makes for their argument. Mrs. Seib maintained that as a woman she could not secure such profitable employment as she could as a man. And here her ground is undoubtedly well taken. She should have a special dispensation when her enforced detention is over to wear whatever will win for her the best returns.