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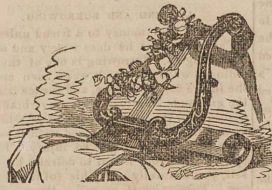
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PRAYER.

Prayer is the incense of the soul,
The odor of the flower;
And rises as the waters roll,
To God's controlling power!
Within the soul there would not be
This infinite desire
To whisper thoughts in prayer to Thee,
Hadst Thou not lit the fire.

Prayer is the spirit speaking truth
To Thee, whose love divine
Steals gently down like dew to soothe,
Or like the sunbeams shine.
Far, in the humblest soul that lives,
As in the lowliest flower,
The dew-drop back His image gives,
The soul reflects His power!

At night, when all is hushed and still,
And e'en soft echo sleeps,
A still small voice doth o'er me thrill,
And to each heart thro' loops;
It is the spirit pulse which beats,
Forever deep and true!
The atom with its Author meets,
As sunlight greets the dew.

DISGUISED FEMALES.

Women are, in general, so much under the influence of two great principles of their nature—timidity and delicacy—that the protection of their ordinary dress must, in general, be too much appreciated to be rashly thrown aside. Accordingly, that a female should ever, in any circumstance, dismiss her proper apparel, may well appear to us as something like a phenomenon. Yet instances of this being done are by no means infrequent, even in modern times. In some instances, the moving cause is to be found in circumstances: a young female, for example, falls in love with a sailor, and not being allowed to follow him in her natural and recognised character, puts on jacket and trousers, and becomes, to appearance, a brother of his mess. But in the most of cases, a pure masculinity of character seems to lead females to take on the guise of men. Apparently feeling themselves misplaced and misrepresented by the female dress, they take up with that of men, simply that they may be allowed to employ themselves in those many avocations for which their nature and taste are fitted.

The case of Mary East, which made some noise about eighty or ninety years ago, was one in which the motive was of a beautiful and romantic nature. She was born in the year 1715, in one of the eastern counties of England. On reaching womanhood, she formed a strong attachment to a young man, who afterwards fell into evil habits, and was condemned to death for a robbery. His sentence, however, was commuted to transportation. Unworthy as this person was of her love, Mary East was so deeply affected by his fate, that she resolved ever to remain in a single state, and meeting with another young woman whom a similar disappointment had

driven to the same resolution, the two determined to pass their lives together. In order to form a sort of protection for both, it was agreed that one of them should assume the male habit, and on casting lots to decide the matter, this metamorphosis fell to the share of Mary East, then only sixteen years of age, and a year younger than her associate. For the execution of their views, it was of course necessary for them to remove to a place where they were unknown. With £30 in their possession, they accordingly went to Epping, in Essex, where Mary East, after purchasing a man's attire, and assuming the name of James How, took a small inn, which was accidentally found vacant.

We have thus, in Mary East's case, a plain and intelligible reason for the assumption of the male habit, which we will find scarcely to be the case in other instances. In the little inn at Epping, Mary East lived for some time with her companion, in the character of man and wife, until a fortunate accident enabled them to shift to better quarters. The seeming husband, James How, quarrelled with a young gentleman, and entering an action at law against him, obtained damages to the amount of £500. With this sum, the associated couple removed to Limehouse Hole, where they took a larger inn, and, by good management, soon began to lay up money. As their circumstances improved, they took a still more respectable house of entertainment—the White Horse, at the village of Poplar. In these various situations, they had spent more than twenty years, and had purchased considerable property, when an event occurred which gave the pair a great deal of annoyance. A woman who, from knowing Mary East in her youth, had discovered the secret of her disguise, suddenly resolved to turn that discovery to the purpose of extorting money. Accordingly, she wrote to Mr. (or James) How, demanding £10, and threatening, in case of a denial, to disclose the truth relative to Mr. How's sex. Fearful lest such a disclosure would have put a stop to their profitable business, besides causing other inconveniences, Mr. and Mrs. How at once sent the money demanded.

For a number of years afterwards, this annoyance was not repeated, and James How and his partner continued to thrive in the world. The disguised female served repeatedly in Poplar as foreman on juries, and filled various parochial offices, with great credit, though it was often remarked, that there was a sort of effeminacy about her. The maintenance of the secret was perhaps greatly owing to the circumstance of the pair keeping no maid-servants about the house, but doing nearly all the necessary business themselves. At length, at the close of the year 1764, the woman who had extorted money previously, renewed her attacks. She first demanded, and got, £10. In a fortnight, she repeated the demand, and received £5. Just about this period, the supposed wife of James How fell ill, and after going to her brother's at some distance, died there. She had sent for How before her decease, but as How could not conveniently come to her, she told her brother all the circumstances: that she had lived, not with a man, but with a woman; that they had been partners in business, and had amassed more than £4000 sterling. As soon as his sister died, the brother went to Poplar, and required How to

give up the deceased's share of the property. This was at once complied with. The brother kept the secret of How's sex, but it came out immediately afterwards, in consequence of the extortioner, already mentioned, carrying her demands anew to excess. This woman took two accomplices to assist her, and forced the supposed How to give her a draft for £100. On presenting this draft, the parties were taken up, and How, seeing that the secret could be kept no longer, attended, and bore witness against them before the magistrates, in the character of Mary East, and in the proper habit of her sex. In this attire, she behaved at first so awkwardly, as to excite much laughter. The extortioners were convicted and punished.

Immediately afterwards, Mary East sold off her stock and effects, and retired to a private dwelling in Poplar, to enjoy the fruits of her honest industry. She was fifty years of age when she resumed the habit of her sex, and laid down the borrowed one she had borne for thirty-four years. She lived till June 6, 1780, being sixty-five years old when she died.

The heroine of the preceding narrative can scarcely be said to have laid aside much of her feminine nature with her dress. Not so, however, Hannah Snell, the next personage to whom we have to advert. Hannah Snell was born on the 23d of April 1723, in the city of Worcester. Her father was a hosier, and had a family of three sons and six daughters, of whom Hannah was the youngest. It is said, that in her youth this girl shewed a bold spirit and even a martial turn. However this may be, after the death of her parents she came, in 1740, to London, to reside with a sister, married to a ship-carpenter, at Wapping. About two years afterwards, Hannah married a Dutch seaman, who proved a very bad husband. After using her shamefully, he finally ran off, leaving her on the eve of bringing her first child into the world. This child survived only seven months, and some time after its decease, Hannah, finding herself alone and unencumbered, formed the romantic notion of setting out in search of her eloped spouse, for whom she still appears to have entertained a strong affection. The best way of finding him, she thought, was to enter the army. Accordingly, secretly assuming her brother-in-law's dress, and also borrowing his name, which was James Gray, Hannah set out, in November 1745, for Coventry, where she enlisted in the corps of General Guyton. The main body of this regiment was then at Carlisle, and Hannah was sent thither with other recruits. A disagreeable incident soon after befell her here. A sergeant of the corps pitched upon Hannah to assist him in some base views which he entertained relative to a young female in Carlisle. Though in man's attire, Hannah, to her credit, had so much regard for the honor of her own sex, as to put the intended victim on her guard. Finding himself repulsed, the sergeant imagined Hannah to have supplanted him; and the consequence was, that our female soldier was soon afterwards accused by him of some dereliction of duty, and was sentenced to receive 600 lashes. Five hundred of these she did receive at Carlisle gate. Her secret nevertheless, was not discovered—in consequence, it is related, of her using a handkerchief as a partial covering. Shortly after this, a recruit who had before known her, joined the regi-

ment, and Hannah, afraid of exposure, besides being already disgusted with her situation, resolved to desert. She did so, and got in safety to Portsmouth, where she enlisted in the marines, and was speedily drafted on board the Swallow sloop of war, destined to join Admiral Boscawen's fleet in the East Indies.

Hannah's sex remained undetected on board of the Swallow, though she did not scruple to shew a degree of womanly skill in washing and in cooking, which caused her to be much beloved by her comrades. She, however, went through all ordinary duties at the same time—such as taking her turn at the watch, exercising, and the like. About the Bay of Biscay, the Swallow fell into great distress; and after much severe work at the pumps, in which Hannah took her full share, as she did in all the most trying duties, the sloop put into Lisbon, and afterwards succeeded in joining the rest of the fleet, which the admiral led against the Mauritius. Hannah made herself noted by her extreme bravery in the attack on this island, which proved unsuccessful. From the Mauritius, the fleet sailed to Fort St. David, on the Coromandel Coast, where the marines were put on shore to join the army in that country. The siege of Arcacop was the first enterprise in which our heroic heroine was here engaged, and she gained so much applause for her soldierly conduct, that she was chosen as one of a select band—a sort of forlorn hope—ordered upon the dangerous service of bringing stores from the shore at a particular point. This service was successfully effected, and Hannah distinguished herself by revenging a comrade's death—killing the author of it with her own hands. The siege of Pondicherry followed these events, and here Hannah underwent the most severe toil. She was on guard seven nights successively, and stood a great part of the time up to the breast in water, exposed continually to the enemy's shot. She herself fired thirty seven rounds, and when the place was taken she came off with six wounds in one leg, five in the other, and a ball in her groin. The other wounds were submitted to the care of the surgeons, but she was under the necessity of doing the last mentioned. However, with surprising fortitude, she herself contrived to extract the ball, though deeply lodged. By the connivance of a kindly black woman in the hospital, she got dressings applied to the wound, and it was healed at the end of three months, when her other injuries also were cured.

On leaving the hospital, the brave soldier, James Gray, as she was called, was put on board of the Tartar Pink; and afterwards of the Etham man-of-war. While in the vessel, having refused to sing at the wish of a domineering lieutenant, she was doomed to a dozen lashes, and to four days' confinement in irons, on the pretext of her having stolen a shirt, though the spite of the officer was the real cause. The shirt was afterwards found in the owner's trunk, and her innocence established. Hannah was at length sent in the Etham to England. Being called Molly Gray by her comrades, on account of her smooth chin, every frolic that could help to conceal her true character was joined in by her whenever the ship touched at any port, and she thus succeeded in getting her appellation changed to that of Heary Jimmy. At Lisbon, she heard, by mere accident, that

her husband had perished by the hands of the public executioner at Genoa, for murdering a native of that city. Thus was Hannah's original reason for donning man's attire done away with. On reaching England, in 1750, Hannah had the honor to receive two offers of marriage—one in her character of a man, and the other in her real character. The first came from the young woman whose honor she had saved in Carlisle, and whom she met in Portsmouth. Hannah of course declined the connection. The other matrimonial offer took place in London, when, having received her pay, and being about to part with her comrades, Hannah disclosed to them the secret which she had previously been so assiduous to preserve. One of them offered her his hand on the spot. Her wounds, and the remarkable nature of her adventures, now attracted the attention of the Duke of York, who ultimately settled on her a pension of £30. Before this grant was made, Hannah, having assumed the habit of a woman, and taken up her abode with her sister, was induced, in consequence of the attention which her story excited, to appear on the boards of Goodman's-Field's Theatre, and to sing some songs, and to perform the sword exercise. The pension placed her above the necessity of resorting to such public exhibitions of herself for subsistence. She lived till the year 1779; and died in the fifty-sixth year of her age. From the portraits given of her, she appears to have been stoutly formed, and not ill-looking.

Excepting that she served her country as a man-of-war's man, and served it well and bravely, about the period referred to, little is known of the history of Anne Mills. Her motives for assuming the male habit do not appear to have transpired, nor do we know whether her secret was detected by accident or disclosed by herself. We have a good deal more to tell the reader, fortunately, respecting the next Amazonian fair one whom we have to introduce to his notice. Mary Anne Talbot was the youngest of sixteen illegitimate children, whom her mother bore to one of the heads of the noble house of Talbot. With such a descent as this, it was perhaps not unnatural after all for Mary to exhibit, as she did, a valiant spirit, as she could claim for an ancestor the renowned Talbot—

—“The sculcrape of France,
“With whose dread name her mothers still’d their babes.”

Here was a progenitor, our readers will admit well calculated to send a martial ardor through a hundred generations. The descendant with whom we have at present to do, was born on the 2d of February 1778, in London, but was in her childhood removed to Chester, where she was respectfully educated beneath the eye of a married sister. At this sister's death, Mary Anne fell under the care of a gentleman named Sucker, who treated her with great severity, and who appears to have taken advantage of her friendless situation in order to transfer her, for the vilest of purposes, to the hands of a Captain Bowen, whom he directed her to look upon as her future guardian. Captain Bowen took the girl, then barely fourteen years of age, to London, and soon made his charge his mistress. He treated her tyrannically afterwards, and being ordered to join his regiment at St. Domingo, compelled Mary Anne to go with him in the disguise of a footboy, and under the name of John Taylor. This was the beginning of her masculine career, and, though at first compulsory, she subsequently shewed that she had a spirit not ungenial to her dress. On the passage onwards, the ship suffered great distress, and Mary Anne bore her share in every kind of hard work and privation, concealing her sex carefully all the while. Captain Bowen had scarcely reached St. Domingo, when he was remanded with his regiment to Europe, to join the Duke of York's Flanders expedition. He again forced Mary Anne to accompany him, and she had to enrol herself as a drummer in the corps. When she arrived in Europe, she was in several skirmishes, and was wounded, once by a ball which struck one of her ribs, and another time by a sabre stroke on the side. She suffered dreadfully from being obliged to conceal these injuries, yet she healed them herself in time, and kept her secret. Her

tyrant, for such Captain Bowen had proved himself, was killed at Valenciennes; and as she had acted as footboy to him besides being a drummer, Mary Anne had an opportunity of finding among his effects several letters relating to herself, which proved that she had been defrauded through Sucker and Bowen of money left to her. This made her resolve to leave the regiment, and endeavor to return to England. She set out, in the dress of a sailor-boy, and got to a seaport, where she was stopped, the town being in possession of the French. She was not, however, confined; and in order to get away from the place, she hired herself to the commander of a French lugger, which turned out to be a privateer. On board of this vessel, she was subjected to severe drudgery; but when the privateer fell in with some of Lord Howe's vessels in the Channel, she would not assist in fighting against her countrymen, notwithstanding all the blows and menaces the French captain could use. The privateer was taken, and our heroine was carried before Lord Howe, to whom she told candidly all that had recently happened to her, saying nothing, however, about her sex.

Mary Anne Talbot, or John Taylor, was then placed on board of the Brunswick, Captain Harvey, where she was appointed to the post of powder-monkey, as it is called. This was in 1795, and she was yet but sixteen years of age. Her neatness and civil manners attracted the notice of Captain Harvey, who behaved kindly to her, and made her principal cabin-boy. He inquired into her story, and she told all of it that did not involve her secret. Soon after, coming on board the Brunswick, she witnessed Howe's great victory of the 1st of June, and was actively engaged in it. The consequence of her daring conduct was, that her left leg was struck a little above the knee by a musket-ball, and broken and smashed severely, lower down, by a grape shot. Incapable of rising after these injuries, she lay on deck until the action was over, when she was taken to the cock-pit. Afterwards, on the Brunswick reaching England, Mary Anne was conveyed to Haslag Hospital, where she remained four months, until a partial cure was effected. All the while no suspicion was ever entertained of her being a woman.

Notwithstanding her sufferings, she was no sooner out of hospital, than she again entered a man-of-war, the Vesuvius, commanded by Capt. Tomlinson. The motive for still keeping up her disguise is not very easily seen, unless it were a liking for the trade of war, or the necessity for doing something for her maintenance, which she might think it more difficult to accomplish as a female. However this may be, the Vesuvius was doomed not long to be the scene of her career. The vessel was captured by two French ships, and Mary Anne was sent to the prisons of Dunkirk. There she was incarcerated for eighteen months, and underwent the harshest treatment, aggravated by severe bodily illness. Having formed a plan of escape, along with a young midshipman named Richards, it was discovered, and she was confined in a pitch-dark dungeon for eleven weeks, on a diet of bread and water. Her Dunkirk imprisonment was in so far useful, as it gave her an opportunity of acquiring the art of making various trinkets from goldwire, which she learned from a German fellow-prisoner, and which she subsequently turned to account. An exchange of prisoners set Mary Anne at liberty, but she did not go to England when this took place. Hearing accidentally an American merchant captain inquiring in the streets of Dunkirk for a lad to go to New-York as ship's steward, she offered her services and was accepted. In August 1796, she sailed with Captain Field on this voyage, and arrived safely soon after at Rhode Island, where she resided with the captain's family. Here an odd adventure befel her. A niece of the captain fell deeply in love with the seeming John Taylor, and went so far as to propose marriage. Mary Anne did her best to escape civilly from this dilemma, but on her departure from Rhode Island, the young lady fell into such alarming fits, that Mary Anne, after sailing two miles was called back by a boat, and was compelled to promise a speedy return to the enamored fair one, Mary Anne

then went to London in the same vessel along with Capt. Field, to whom she still acted as steward. Whilst the vessel was taking in a new cargo in London, she showed her courage on one occasion, by rising in the night on hearing a noise at her cabin door, and opposing with a sword the entrance of some person, who afterwards was detected by a wound then received, and confessed an intention to rob our heroine's cabin.

At this period it chanced that Mary Anne, being on shore with some of her comrades, was assailed and seized by a press-gang. She could get off, she found, in no other way than by revealing her sex, and this she did. Her story soon spread abroad, and made a great noise. From this time forth she never went to sea again. She made repeated applications for money due to her, but at first found it difficult to prove her claims at the Navy Pay Office. She had acquired, it would appear, a genuine sailorly freedom of address by this time, for she spoke so sharply on one occasion at this office, that she was sent to Bow Street. Here her story attracted the notice of some influential persons, who raised a subscription for her, and placed her in a lodging, the mistress of which was enjoined to break her, if possible, off her masculine dress and habits. About this period she went and worked for a time with a jeweller, but in the beginning of 1797, her leg, which had never been altogether healed since the fracture of the 1st of June, grew so bad as to drive her into St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Several exfoliations of bone were here extracted.

On learning her history, the Duke of York gave her a pension of £20. This did a great deal to maintain her during the remaining part of her life, which was passed in the attire natural to her sex, and into the particulars of which it is unnecessary to enter. It may only be observed, that her masculine career seems, for a time at least, to have nearly incapacitated her for playing the character of a woman. Though not given to excess as a man, she smoked and drank grog too much to be quite orderly as a woman. These tastes appear, however, to have worn away, as we find her in the beginning of this century (1807), to have been quietly living in service with a bookseller, Mr. Kirby, who wrote a memoir of her. This is the last notice that we have of her, and it is quite possible she may be yet alive. She would be seventy-five years of age were this the case.

WET SEASON IN ENGLAND IN 1348.—Accidentally looking into Holinshed a few days ago, I found that our present unusually wet season is not without a parallel, indeed much exceeded; as on that occasion the harvest must have been a complete failure, and death and disease consequently ensued. Providence, however, has kindly blessed us with an average harvest, and, exclusive of the disasters attendant upon storms and floods, I trust we shall escape any further visitation. I annex an extract of the passage in Holinshed:—
“In this 22 year [of Edward III., A. D. 1348], from Midsommer to Christmase, for the more part it continually rained, so that there was not one day and night drie together; by reason whereof great floods ensued, and the ground therewith was sore corrupted, and manie inconveniencies ensued, as great sicknesses, and other, in such that in the years following, in France, the people died wonderfullie in diverse places. In Italie also, and in manie other countries, as well as in the lands of the infidels as in Christendome, this grievous moribate reigned, to the great destruction of people. About the end of August, he like death began in diverse places of England, and especie in London, continuing so for the space of twelve moneths following. And upon that issued great barrenness, as well of the sea as the land, neither of them yielding such plenty of things as before they had done. Whereupon vitells, and come became scant and hard to come by.”

☞ The areas of the principal river basins which are drained into seas that are accessible to ocean commerce, may thus be stated:—
In South America—the Amazon—area, (including the Oronoco), 2,884,380 square miles.
In North America—The Mississippi—area 980,000 square miles.
In Europe—The Danube—area 294,000 square miles.
In Africa—The Nile—area 520,000 square miles.
In Asia, China—The Yang-tse Koang—area 672,000 square miles.
In India—The Ganges—area 432,020 square miles.