

# THE MURRAY HALL CASE

## Possible Solution of New York's Strange Mystery.

### THE STORY OF AN OLD NURSE.

**She Is Convinced That the Late New York Politician Was Mary Anderson of Scotland—Their Lives Are Parallel—Scotch Orphan Fled to America to Escape Notoriety.**

The mystery of the life of Murray Hall, whose death in New York recently disclosed the fact that she had been masquerading as a man for more than 30 years, may be cleared by the story told by Mrs. Canning, an old nurse, for many years connected with the Edinburgh hospital, but now living in Brooklyn borough.

Mrs. Canning told a reporter of a case which tallies in almost every minute detail with the life of Murray Hall of New York. It is the story of a girl who adopted man's attire through being forced to earn her own living in her early youth; how when her sex was discovered after she had masqueraded for years she was driven from Scotland by the notoriety and how she adopted the name of Murray Hall.

If she be the same woman, the Murray Hall who for years ran an employment agency in Sixth avenue was Mary Anderson, who, with her brother John, a year older than herself, was orphaned in her fourteenth year and left destitute. Mary Anderson and her brother struggled to earn a living, but two years after their parents' death the boy died. In a story she told subsequently in the Edinburgh hospital her brother persuaded her to bury him as "Mary" Anderson and assume his name, saying it would be easier for her to earn a living.

As John Anderson she went to the little town of Govan, Scotland, and there married. Her inability to drop her feminine manners caused talk, and to stop it she married. Here her life begins a striking parallel with that of Murray Hall. She smoked and drank, swore like a sailor and was fond of the society of other women.

"Her" wife became jealous, it is alleged, and separation followed. The wife disclosed the fact that "John Anderson" was a woman, and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

She went to Duddison, a small town two miles from Edinburgh, and later entered Edinburgh. This was in the year 1870, the year of the smallpox epidemic in the Scotch capital, and when she showed symptoms of the disease she was taken to the hospital. Here her identity was disclosed in spite of her efforts to conceal her sex, and she was arrested on the old Govan warrant. Her prosecution followed, but was stopped when she volunteered to act as a nurse of the smallpox patients at the hospital.

According to Mrs. Canning's story, there were then two sections to the hospital, one known as Hamilton Hall and the other as Murray Hall. "John Anderson" was assigned to work in Murray Hall.

This is the coincidence which led Mrs. Canning first to suspect that the Sixth avenue Murray Hall was none other than the woman who had masqueraded as a man nurse in Murray Hall, Edinburgh. It was during the dreadful plague of the year 1870 that the girl told Mrs. Canning her story.

The Edinburgh Scotsman printed the story in full, and the notoriety the woman achieved drove her from the hospital. Wherever she went she was jeered at, and finally, unable to bear up under the ridicule any longer, she decided to quit Scotland. She confided this to Mrs. Canning and was advised to go to America. This she did at the close of the year 1870, telling her friends that she was going to change her name and begin life over again in the land of promise. That was the last they saw or heard of her.

Mrs. Canning described to the reporter the appearance of the girl. The height and build were the same as Murray Hall's, and every one of her peculiar habits in Edinburgh finds a parallel in the life of the woman known as a man in New York since she came from Scotland 30 years ago.—New York World.