

# MURRAY HALL LIVED A ROUNDER'S LIFE.

Revelation of "His" Sex Caused  
Amazement Among Persons  
Who Knew "Him."

## SUSPICIOUS FACTS RECALLED.

When a Bartender Called Her an  
Old Woman She Grew Furi-  
ous and Threat-  
ening.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Jan. 18.—Half the saloonkeepers, grocery men and storekeepers generally who do business in the neighborhood of Sixth avenue and Tenth street were in a self-accusing mood to-day. Having learned that their old friend Murray Hall, Tammany politician, distributor of charity and hall fellow well met, who died yesterday, was a woman, they remembered a dozen occurrences which might have aroused their suspicions, and wondered why they had not learned her true sex years ago.

Murray Hall lived at 145 Sixth avenue, over the intelligence office which she managed, with an adopted daughter and a housekeeper. Most of her time was spent in the company of women, and those who called to-day declared that she was good company, too. She would sit at one end of the room where the servants gathered and talk with them by the hour on any topic that came up. Now and then she would ask one of them to step out to have something, and after that would return ready to join in any conversation that started during their absence. In the evening she sometimes visited the saloons and the headquarters of the Fifth Assembly District Tammany organization and talked politics. Very often, though, she passed the evening sitting in the back room of some saloon in the company of women.

### Resented Being Called a Woman.

For some reason or other she always made tall women her closest companions, and it was more than once remarked that despite her clothes she looked more like a woman some ways than did her companions. One night she went into a saloon on Greenwich avenue with a woman on either side of her, and the three seated themselves at a table in the rear. The bartender, after taking the orders of the women, turned to Hall and said:

"And what will you have, little old woman?"

A moment later he wished that he had kept quiet. Hall flew into a rage; called the bartender a dozen harsh names and threatened to throw a bottle. The bartender, remembering this, to-day, said:

"Now, that I know the secret I can understand what roused Hall. He or she was short, thin and generally effeminate-looking. There was not a hair on her little, weakened face, and she was continually smiling, like an old woman might be expected to smile.

In the neighborhood where Murray Hall lived she had the reputation as a dispenser of charity. Often she went to the tiny coffee stand back of the Jefferson Market Police Court, and laying a dollar on the counter, directed that it be expended in providing rolls and coffee for any person who was too poor to purchase them. The result was that at almost any time there was a cup of coffee and a roll waiting there for the penniless, and when the fund was exhausted a visit to Murray Hall would have it replenished at once.

### Her Lawyer Thunderstruck.

Thomas Moran, the lawyer who drew up Murray Hall's will, said to-day that he was thunderstruck when he learned that his client was a woman. He has an office right across the hall from the intelligence office and saw his neighbor every day. Mr. Moran was executor of the will of Mrs. Hall, who died over two years ago. She left her property to her supposed husband. So far as Mr. Moran knows, the adopted daughter is the only heir. He said to-day that, like every one else in the vicinity, he knew Murray Hall well, but, like every one else, knew nothing about her early life.

At the time of her death Murray Hall was a widower, her wife having been dead something over two years. The precise date or place of her marriage could not be learned, but it is known that the wife was a Miss Hobbs, and, on her death, Hall shipped her body to Shawmut, Me. At the time of her death, according to the Health Board's records, Hall's wife was 58 years of age. In the will her property was left to "My beloved husband, Murray H. Hall."

They had an adopted daughter, Minnie Hall, who is about 22 years old. She was unaware of her adopted "father's" secret, and every attempt was made to conceal the secret from her. The undertaker who had been called in was amazed when he was told the truth and arranged at once by dispensing with his regular assistants to try and keep the matter from becoming public. The servant, who knew the facts, kept the daughter away until the body had been prepared for burial.

It is said that Miss Hobbs was Hall's second wife, the first having left him on account of ill-treatment, and has refused to give up carousing, of which she was very fond. Neighbors say it was nothing unusual to see Hall staggering home nights under a heavy load, after visiting saloons in the vicinity.

### SHE WAS A CLEVER POLITICIAN.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 18.—Perhaps the most surprised man in the capital to-day was Senator "Barney" Martin when he learned that Murray Hall, one of his warmest friends and ablest lieutenants in his political works, was a woman. When speaking about Murray Hall to-day the Tammany Senator always alluded to her as "he."

"So he's a woman," said he. "Well, I never guessed it. He was always a bright man and a good, keen politician. He knew politics from A to Z. I used to meet him every place. He used to complain to me sometimes that his wife abused him. She was a fine, big woman, but always seemed jealous of the little man. Murray was a brave little fellow, though. He had plenty of grit. I can hardly believe that he was a woman."

The Senator added that his views on the "woman suffrage" question were experiencing a change. "Any woman that can act a man's part in every way, even to supporting a wife and family for thirty years, as Murray Hall did, has a right to vote," he concluded.