

WOMEN WITH RECORDS.

ADVENTURES OF FEMALES WHO HAVE PLAYED THE MAN.

Jane Thornton's Three Year Cruise at Sea—Romanticism as Displayed in the Case of Mary Ann Taylor, Who Accompanied Her Lover to the West Indies.

The case of the poor little sea apprentice "Hans Brandt," who 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 certain 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 13 she met Alexander Burke, an American sea captain, and when he went to New York she determined to leave her home in Donegal and to follow him. She succeeded in shipping as cabin boy, and in reaching America; but 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 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.

A ROMANTIC CASE.

Romanticism also played an important part in the case of Mary Anne Taylor. Her domestic affairs, however, were not the most comfortable, and it is uncertain whether she accompanied her lover, an infantry officer, to the West Indies solely on account of her affection for him, or partly on account of her home troubles. But accompany him she did, and in boy's dress. Going with him afterward to France, she acted as a drummer and was wounded at the siege of Valenciennes. Upon her recovery she deserted and took service, still as a boy, on board a French lugger, which she believed to be a trader, but which was really a privateer. In this craft she was captured by the fleet under Lord Howe, to whom, without revealing her sex, she explained the circumstances of her engagement.

Her explanation being accepted she shipped as a cabin boy in the *Brunswick*, Capt. John Harvie, and fought in that capacity on the glorious 1st of June, 1794. Although she received two severe wounds on that occasion, and was sent for treatment to Haslar, she nevertheless managed to conceal her sex, and subsequently joined the *Vesuvius* bomb and then a Yankee trader. Indeed she only proclaimed herself at last in order to avoid being pressed as a seaman on her return again to England. This woman, who was the youngest of sixteen natural children of Lord William Talbot, enjoyed for many years a small pension from the queen of George III.

A WOMAN-MAN FIGHTS A DUEL.

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 her 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, then as a marine. She was several times wounded, but always managed to conceal her sex, and might perhaps have concealed it 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 13, in the year 1752, with her sweetheart. To avoid discovery she started as a boy, and liking the disguise she afterward 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.—*St. James' Gazette*.