

## A MASK LIFTED.

**A Negro Villain in Woman's Clothing—Has Been Carrying on a System of Infamy for Twenty Years in Memphis—Startling Disclosure.**

Some twenty or more years ago a negro woman came here from South Carolina, and at once commenced a course of crime by keeping an assignation house. She called herself Frances Thompson and was known as "Crutchy," on account of using crutches. Since that time she has kept up the infamous traffic as a procuress and keeper of one of the vilest dens in the city. She formerly kept her establishment on Madison street, near the bayou, but of late has kept an assignation house near the county jail. Her trade and traffic was with both whites and blacks, who frequented the den. She has been arrested several times on suspicion of being a man, and for notorious lewdness, but always managed to elude the clutches of the law. It will be remembered that when the Congressional Committee investigated the Memphis riots, Frances Thompson swore that she had been outraged thirteen times by an Irish mob, and this was used by the Radical party as part of the campaign thunder to excite the negroes and keep them in the ranks of Radicalism. A few days since, at the instigation of a well-known physician, Frances Thompson was arrested by Sergeant McElroy on the charge of being a man and wearing women's clothing. This morning, at the station-house, a thorough medical examination of Frances Thompson was made by Drs. Wise, Nuttall, A. V. Taylor and Richard Taylor, and the result of the examination was that Frances was a man and not a woman in any respect. He is a coarse, ruffianly and burly-looking negro, and has committed numberless vile crimes while passing under the garb of a woman and keeping infamous establishments of the most horrible character—of a character impossible to describe in print. It is a most revolting chapter of vice and crime. He always asserted that he was of double sex, known as the hermaphrodite, but he is not a human monstrosity or monster except in crime. The physicians testified before Recorder Duff this forenoon, and that official fined the villain fifty dollars for a misdemeanor, the highest penalty that could be imposed. The Attorney General is now looking up the law with reference to the case in the light of a State offense. Hereafter Frances will have to wear male apparel, and will probably serve out a term of one hundred days on the chain-gang. The affair is of a startling and sensational character, and will surprise hundreds of citizens.