

Amazing Careers Recalled.—Many Imitators of Madame Velasquez, the Confederate Soldier Who Fought at Bull Run.

Adventurous Lives of Women in Trousers

By RUPERT NEVILLE.
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Special Cable to The Tribune.
LONDON, July 30.—How many women are there masquerading as men in your locality? Maybe the question is not so foolish as it looks. For before Suffragettes came to trouble the world women often found ways to gain equality with men. There was "Harry Lloyd," for instance, who has just handed in her checks on the outskirts of London. The mystery of this woman, who for over twenty-five years worked and lived as a man, has roused tremendous interest. So well did she carry her masculine clothes that nobody suspected her secret. When a doctor was called to the house in Alma road, Enfield, on the northeast fringe of the metropolis, to attend "Harry Lloyd" in his last moments, he presently came downstairs and said to Miss Lloyd, who believed herself to be the daughter: "I thought it was a man I was called to see?"

"Yes, it is so," she replied; "that is my father." Then she was shocked to hear that the dead body upstairs was that of a woman.
Inquiries established the fact that the woman's real name was Marie Le Roy, the daughter of a French officer, whose widow resided in Brussels some time about 1872. Well educated and full of the joy of life, the little French woman used to attend the Hall of Science in Old street in the days when Robert Ingersoll, Charles Bradlaugh and Austin Holyoake, his publisher, lectured there. Why this well educated woman cut herself off from all her friends and lived the latter half of her life as a man is a mystery which she has carried with her to the grave. Probably, however, it was due to a wish to protect the good name of the girl who believed her to be her father.

About Madame Velasquez.
This theory has recalled similar acts of devotion disclosed from time to time in the life histories of other women who have posed as men. More often, however, women have adopted man's attire through sheer love of adventure, and a dislike of the limitations and restraints imposed on their own sex. Of this the most notable example was the famous Madame Velasquez, who took so active a part in the war between the north and south. She organized a company of recruits, and to the intense surprise of her husband, who was an officer in the Confederate army, she one day presented herself before him in camp, and he was in the extraordinary position of having to accept the services of his own wife as lieutenant. Soon after she joined him, however, he was killed by the accidental discharge of a carbine. Madame Velasquez had many exciting adventures during the war. She fought through the famous battle of Bull Run and was badly wounded at the fall of Fort Donelson. After giving up service as a soldier, she acted as a spy for the Confederates, and when the war was nearing its end, she took a hand in blockade running.
In keeping with her adventurous nature, she married three times and had several children, but the cares of motherhood do not appear to have in-

duced her to settle down, for in later life she joined a miner's camp as a man, and made extensive tours through Europe. At the beginning of her male career she went to great pains to conceal her form, and had made for her half a dozen fine wire net shields which she wore next to the skin. Over these she wore an undershirt of silk or lisle thread, which fitted closely, and was held in place by straps across the chest and shoulders. These undershirts could be rolled up into the small compass of a collar box. Around the waist of each of the undershirts was a band, with eyelet holes arranged for the purpose of making the waistbands of the pantaloons stand out to the proper number of inches.

Ambitious Imitator.
An ambitious imitator of Madame Velasquez came to the front as lately as the South African war. Among the host of strange offers that poured into the office of a London daily newspaper, was one from a young woman engaged in business in a South Coast watering place, asking for advice to enable her to go out to the war as a private. The sage counsel which was given to "Mabel" had little effect, however, for shortly afterwards, in the khaki uniform of a young recruit, she fell into the hands of the authorities, whose unsympathetic conduct nipped in the bud her patriotism at the very moment when it was on the point of blossoming.



One of the most successful and adventurous of female masqueraders was Hannah Snell, "the female sailor," who ended her romantic career in Bedlam asylum. She had married a Dutch seaman, who robbed her of her savings and disappeared, leaving her with an infant daughter. On the death of the child, Hannah dressed herself in a suit of her brother-in-law's clothes, assumed his name, and set out to wander over the face of the earth in search of her husband. She enlisted, and at the siege of Pondicherry was the first in a party of English foot soldiers to ford the river breast high under an incessant fire from a French battery. She received a dangerous wound in the leg, but a negro to whom she confided the secret of her sex, assisted her in extracting the bullet and healing the wound.

Shortly afterwards she went on board the Tartar as a sailor, and was transferred to the Eltham. While the vessel was at Lisbon she learned that her long lost husband had been arrested at Genoa for murder, and to expiate his crime had been put into a sack with a quantity of stones and thrown into the sea. On her return to England she obtained release from naval service by allowing her sex to become known. She was taken in hand by an enterprising showman and appeared at the Royalty theater in Wellclose square, and for a time was a great attraction. Also, on account of the wounds she had received in action, Hannah was awarded a naval pension of £150. With her reward she took a liquor shop in Wapping, the sign-board of which was inscribed: "The Widow in Masquerade, or the Female Warrior," and there she flourished till her mind gave way.

Mary Ann Talbot's Career.
Equally varied and exciting was the career of Mary Ann Talbot, the youngest of sixteen natural children of an earl. As "John Taylor" she was taken to sea by a scoundrel named Capt. Bowen, who kept the maintenance money allowed for her support. She was wounded in engagements, taken prisoner, and suffered many vicissitudes before residing at Rhode Island with the family of Capt. Field,



A female masquerader who attained great notoriety for her personal courage as a soldier, during the Duke of Marlborough's campaign against the French in the Low Countries, was Mrs. Christian Davies, the daughter of a Dublin brewer. While in winter quarters she amused herself by pretending to make love to a burgher's daughter, and was so successful in her suit that she found herself compelled to fight a duel with a sergeant of her regiment, whom she all but mortally wounded.

During the campaign she succeeded in discovering her husband, who had been pressed into military service while under the influence of liquor. He carefully guarded the secret of her sex, and she followed him to the siege of Ghent—indeed, she always accompanied him after their reunion, however dangerous the venture. She appears to have been an entire stranger to fear, for while on the march she chose to be with the camp colormen, who were at so great a distance from the army that they ran the risk of being cut off before any force could come to their assistance. This, though the most dangerous post of all, was the most profitable if there was any plunder to be got, as there were so few to share it. Her adventures in after life are described as having been "varied, but always and less respectable." She eventually accepted a home in Chelsea hospital, where she survived to the



whose daughter fell violently in love with the smart looking young sailor. When the Ariel sailed for England the love sick girl went into violent hysterics, and was only pacified by Taylor promising to return as soon as possible. On the voyage, to the young sailor's dismay, Capt. Field spoke sympathetically of his daughter's attachment to him, and told Taylor that he intended to retire and hand over to him the command of his vessel. From this dilemma the girl sailor was rescued through being captured by a press gang soon after landing; and she had to reveal her sex in order to be released.
Her next adventure was as a highwayman, going into partnership with a notorious character named Haines, whom she deserted soon after the commencement of their "business." Then she joined the Thespian Dramatic company, and although she was not a great success on the stage, she managed to subsist on the engagements which the fame of her adventurous career procured for her.

NEW VOLUMES ADDED TO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following thirty volumes will be added to the Public Library Monday morning, August 1, 1910:
Reference—American Society of Civil Engineers, Transactions, 1909; Butler, Butler Family in America; Hastings, Cyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, v. 1 and 2.
Miscellaneous—American Dramatists' Club, In Memoriam; Bronson Howard; Clay, Henry Clay; Douma, George Sand; Frolich & Snow, Textbooks of Art Education, 7 vols.; International Studio Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art, 1910; Lindsay & O'Higgins, The Heart; Mill, Letters of John Stuart Mill; 2 vols.; Payne, Bjornstjerne Bjornsen; Pinciro, Second Mrs. Tanqueray; Spargo, Karl Marx; Wilson, Dancing; Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Annual Reports, 25th and 26th.
Fiction—Nicolls, Daughters of Suffolk.
Children's books—Burgess, Blue Goods and Red; Foulke, Braided Straws; Roulet,

extraordinary age of 108, if dates can be trusted.

About Catherine Coome.
One of the most strange and interesting cases of modern times was that of Catherine Coome, whose father was a man of means and a well known figure in the Devon and Somerset hunt. She married her cousin at the age of 16, but the match proved an unhappy one, and she ran away. To escape her husband, who had already followed her and locked her in a room, she decided to adopt the disguise of a man, and bought her outfit piecemeal in Birmingham. For three and a half years she sailed as captain's clerk in the Mediterranean and Adriatic under the name of Charlie Wilson, the captain's wife being "as good as a mother to her." At the death of that benefactor Coome gave up the sea and learned the trade of a house painter near Frome in Somerset, where she became engaged to a maid servant at the Vicarage. Before moving to Huddersfield Coome married her and they lived happily together for four years, when the girl died.

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Special Cable to The Tribune.

LONDON, July 30.—After sixty-one years' postal service, Mrs. Lucy Louisa Cabot has resigned the position of post-mistress of Southwick, Sussex. Her late husband was Captain Charles Cabot, a descendant of the celebrated fifteenth century explorer, Sebastian Cabot.

Tribune Want Ads.
Bell Main 5200. Independent 360.

After a time Coome married again, this time a dressmaker named Peters, whose parents lived in Jersey. "We were married for twenty-two years," said Coome to an interviewer, "and I do not believe any couple ever were so happy as we were."

Worked as Detective.
Coming up to London, Coome worked as a private detective in a large west end establishment and then returned to her trade, working as a decorator on the Peninsular and Oriental ships plying to Australia. "It was not always easy work," she said, "fancy having to be hoisted to the masthead on a freezing morning with a paint pot held in my teeth." She met with several accidents, and finally broke three ribs. Shortly after that her second wife died. After a while Coome was obliged to seek the shelter of the East Ham workhouse, where her true sex was discovered. On leaving the institution she took to petticoats again and went as a stewardess to Australia, but old habits were too firmly established to be shaken off, and she returned to trousers. One day, while standing near Ebury bridge, in London, a man pointed her out to a policeman as a woman in man's clothes, so she was arrested on a charge of being drunk, but the charge was dismissed at the police court, and from that day to the present time all trace of her has been lost.

Australian Amazon.
In the early days of the British colonies, several cases of women masquerading as men were discovered; the dangers of pioneer life in those days being sufficient motive for adventurous women adopting the sex which afforded them the best protection. There is living near Melbourne a wonderful character, Marion Edwards, otherwise known as "Bill," who still conducts a hotel in male attire. During her thirty years' residence in Australia "Bill" has turned her hand to almost everything, and recently told a woman interviewer that she wished to remain what she was—"a woman without femininity; a man without being male."
"She has the figure of a lightweight

pugilist; the weather-beaten face and rather bleared eye that one sees in sailors. She has no sign, physical or mental, that connotes her gender. She tempts one to believe almost that sex can be made a matter of habit." So the interviewer describes the Australian Amazon.

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