

YEARS IN MASQUERADE.

Man Arrested In New York City For Wearing Dresses.

HAD WORKED AS A LADY'S MAID.

Reginald Culton Says That He Has Passed Most of His Life In Skirts, Has Been on the Stage as a Soubrette and Was Locked Up Once For Wearing Men's Clothes.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—Detective McGinty of the Central park police force, while patrolling the Ramble last evening about 6 o'clock, noticed a well dressed woman acting suspiciously. She carried a satchel in her hand and paced anxiously up and down the walk.

She wore a stylish silk skirt of a slate color, with a polka dot silk waist and tan shoes. A becoming sailor hat surmounted her black, curly hair. She was pretty and well formed. McGinty sauntered up to her and passed some remark about the weather. She smiled and answered him. Her voice was rich and musical. Then they fell into conversation, during which the detective asked her what she was doing in the park.

"Surely not to be catechised by strangers," she said, with a laugh. She nevertheless told him that she was Estelle Lawrence and lived at 551 Third avenue, with her mother.

For a park policeman Detective McGinty is a very suspicious man. When he told Miss Lawrence that she would have to accompany him to the arsenal, she nearly fainted. Then she protested with flashing eyes, but accompanied him just the same.

Before a Sympathetic Sergeant.

When arraigned before Sergeant Hodgins, she declared her arrest an outrage and made such a tearful picture that the sergeant seemed touched.

Hodgins is a gallant man. The distress of Miss Lawrence was so genuine that he was about thinking that McGinty must have made a blunder. He scratched his head in perplexity. Then the detective stepped up beside him and whispered in his ear.

The sergeant's face brightened. "My dear miss," he said suavely, "I am pained to put you to any inconvenience. I can appreciate your anxiety about your mother, who will be awaiting your home coming tonight. Go with the detective, and he will do the best to get you out of your unpleasant dilemma."

Miss Lawrence, smiling through her tears, said, "Oh, that's so sweet of you!" and followed McGinty out of the station. He led her over to Lexington avenue, and between Sixty-sixth and Sixty-seventh streets entered a building. It was the Mount Sinai hospital.

Sergeant Hodgins was meditatively biting the end of a penholder when the detective and Miss Lawrence returned after about an hour. The detective looked triumphantly at the sergeant, and, turning to his shrinking prisoner, said gruffly:

"Now, tell the sergeant the whole business."

She hesitated a moment, and then, nervously, said firmly:

"My right name is Reginald Culton. I am 21 years old and live at 551 Third avenue. I was born in Nova Scotia and up to my eighteenth year wore girl's clothes. I associated mostly with women, cultivated their manners and habits and felt as they did. I then came to New York and discarded female attire. From here I went to Hartford, where I was taken for a woman by a policeman and arrested for masquerading in male attire. Afterward I went to Boston, where I resumed skirts and passed under the name of Estelle Angel.

Lady's Maid For Three Years.

"I applied at an office for a situation and was taken into the employ of Mrs. Henry Paul of Newton Heights as lady's maid. For three years I held the position. They knew me as Estelle Dare. A quarrel arose over some trivial matter, and I left.

"Subsequently I got several small positions on the stage under the names of Violet Dell and Violet Beacon. I did not like this sort of work and got out. While on the stage I used to act as a soubrette, sing popular ballads and occasionally dance.

"A couple of days ago I went to Odell's intelligence office, in Forty-second street, this city, and was recommended to a position at Mountindale, N. Y., as a chambermaid. The air did not agree with me, and I left Wednesday and returned to this city. For the last two days I have been spending my time in the park."

Sergeant Hodgins listened to the story with amazement. In the satchel Culton carried a quantity of perfume, powder, powder rags, cosmetics, soap, a toothbrush and other articles. He was locked up and was arraigned in the Yorkville court this morning.