

There is a remarkable case before the House committee on Military affairs at Washington. It is a bill to remove the charges of desertion from the record of Franklin Thompson, alias Mrs. Sarah E. Seelye. A woman named Sarah E. Edmonds, prompted solely by patriotism, served for two years as a soldier in the Federal army. At the outbreak of the war she was living at Flint, Mich. She assumed male attire, became a private in Company F of the Second Michigan Infantry, went to the front, was in the battle of Bull Run, served through the Peninsular campaign, then under Gen. Pope, and then with Burnside at Fredericksburg, and thence went west with the regiment to Kentucky.

There the young soldier was prostrated with chills and fever contracted on the Peninsula, a leave of absence was refused, and fearful that her sex would be discovered, she left the army, and, returning to Oberlin, O., resumed her woman's garb. Though participating in over forty battles large and small, she never was wounded. Opposite the name she bore the word "deserter" had been written on the army records. This she seeks to have removed. She married in 1867. She is fully identified by members of her own company and regiment. She is now living at Fort Scott, Kans., and the bill proposes to give her a clean record with back pay and bounty. It is asserted that Mrs. Seelye is an invalid as the result of her exposures and hardships in the army. The committee favors Mrs. Seelye's bill because "it cannot be objected to on ground that it is likely to set a dangerous precedent." This sage remark has a more spicy flavor than anything else in the document.—Ex.