

# WOMEN IN TROUSERS.

**NOTABLES WHO MASQUERADE IN THEM FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.**

## THEY WOULD RATHER BE MEN,

**Dr. Mary Walker, Rosa Bonheur, George Sand, Sara Bernhardt and Their Illustrious Predecessors — Female Outlaws Who Array Themselves in Men's Clothes.**



**T**OM KING is a notorious Oklahoma horse thief and jail breaker.

And Tom King is a woman.

She was captured last week clothed in male attire, and then for the first time the sex of the leader of as desperate a gang of cattle pirates as ever made ranchmen miserable was discovered.

For months this woman has scourged the territory, and her masquerade has been so perfect that she deceived even the members of her own band.

Tom King is the most recent convert in the list of women who wear men's garments, but in the ranks of her predecessors there are many well known and famous women, including, of course, the perennial Dr. Mary Walker, who is so identified with the city of Washington and the wearing of trousers that it would be difficult to imagine her out of either, says the New York Herald.

This, to be sure, is in direct violation of the law of most of the states, which forbids either sex to assume the garb of the other, but in the state of Missouri provision is made for those who choose to indulge in this vagary, and a written provision from the governor entitles a woman to wear with impunity a man's dress outside of cities of 10,000 inhabitants. And for a number of years a well known woman, Emily Paxton, has availed herself of this privilege.

This woman was left an orphan when she was a young girl, and at about the age of fifteen she determined to make her livelihood by working on a farm. In the vocation that she had adopted her skirts were an annoyance and a hindrance, and at the suggestion of her employer she donned the habits of men and continued to wear them for twenty-four years. She was finally in charge of a large farm in Pike county, comprising several hundred acres, and there was no part of the work that she could not perform herself. She disliked, however, the chopping of wood, and her preferred occupation was the breaking of horses.

### A Bride in Trousers.

It was the same reason, namely, convenience, that induced Mme. Dicu-lafoy, the famous explorer, to adopt the male attire, and her case is the more remarkable because she was brought up in the strictest way, and never even attended a dance until she was married. Her husband was a soldier, and it was as a bride and in order to be with him during the war that she first dressed like a man. When, later, she became interested in archaeology in the East she continued to wear the same costume, and the spirit that actuated her in her work was as masculine as the garb she wore.

Gen. Sir Robert Murdock Smith, who knew her when she was at work in



GEORGE SAND.

Persia, is authority for the statement that her energy was tireless and indomitable.

The question, "How does she look?" is thus answered by one of her friends: "One sees the tiny woman in the feet and ankles, the hands, the wrists, the pretty throat and the small arms. She has a large, square forehead, blue eyes shot with hazel and a fresh complexion. She is beautifully neat, and her cuffs, collars and cravats are irreproachable."

### Rosa Bonheur's Costume.

Rosa Bonheur is another well known woman whose occupation has led her to the more comfortable costume of the sex masculine. In her studio she wears trousers and a dainty zouave jacket over a loose shirt of soft material. When she visits the fairs where she makes sketches for the pictures that have made her famous her dress consists of a laborer's blue smock coat and cap. This not only enables her to get the necessary studies, but it also protects her from the rough countrymen with whom she comes in contact.

George Sand, when making her studies of the "submerged tenth," also adopted male garments, and she wore them with the same grace and charm that she smoked a cigarette, and how daintily she smoked will be inferred from the fact that the exquisitely feminine Elizabeth Barrett Browning almost approved the habit when she saw George Sand practice it.

### Bernhardt in Boy's Clothing.

Sarah Bernhardt, of course, has worn boy's clothes on the stage—who that has seen her as the little vagrant Italian musician can forget the fact? But she also wears men's clothes in her atelier. One suit of these is of a soft white cloth and the other of black velvet, and in the material and make-up of both of them there is a decided suggestion of femininity.



CHEVALIER D'EON.

A famous case that attracted wide attention was that of the novice in the school at Kalosca. This youth applied for admission to the seminary and announced his intention of becoming a priest. His voice was singularly sweet and pure, and it was noticed with surprise that as

time went by it did not change, but remained a high soprano.

In all respects the novice was obedient and well behaved except on the one point of refusing to kiss the hands of his superiors. He persisted in his obstinacy until one day when, on the occasion of a visit from the primate, Cardinal de Haynald, his conduct subjected him to the punishment of being consigned to his cell. Here he was closely questioned, and the fact was revealed that the pupil was the daughter of a noble family in Hungary.

She had early made up her mind that the priesthood was her proper and especial calling, and she had run away from home to accomplish this purpose. But though she had easily deceived her superiors by her behavior in every other



ROSA BONHEUR.

particular, she could never overcome her maidenly feeling with reference to kissing even the hand of a man.

### Trousered Women in Court.

A French police court was the scene of a curious case, in which two women dressed as men played the principal



SARAH BERNHARDT.

parts. The name of one, Mme. Libert, was called in a certain suit, and in response a person who was apparently a young man stepped forward.

"I want Mme. Libert," said the clerk, "not M. Libert."

"I am Mme. Libert," was the answer.

The clerk was puzzled, and referred the matter to the judge. Then followed the explanation, which was to the effect that Mme. Libert was the daughter of old Mme. Libert, who was present and was also dressed like a man. The judge directed the Mme. Libert who figured in the suit to return to her home and put on women's clothes, when the astonishing fact was revealed that not only had she no feminine clothes, but she never had had, her mother having clothed her as a male from the time of her birth.

The James boys in this country also furnished a female masquerader in the person of their own cousin, Mrs. Josephine Cox. She began to wear boy's clothes at the age of thirteen, but when she was married she returned to the costume of her sex. On the death of her husband, who left her with two children, she resumed her male attire because she could get better pay as a man than as a woman.

As Joseph Cox she worked for a farmer in Aurora, Mo., until her secret was



DR. MARY WALKER.

found out. She then went to Peirce City, Mo., and secured employment in the Peirce City Canning company, where she was regarded as an unusually clever young man. But again she was discovered, and in September, 1889, she was arrested, but upon a promise to abandon her male costume she was released.

### Around the Globe in Trousers.

Perhaps the most remarkable instance of a woman's ability to pass for a man when suitably costumed for the part is that of Bare, who was the first woman to circle the globe. The expedition which she accompanied was undertaken by Bougainville in 1776, and Bare shipped on L'Etoile as valet to the botanist of the party, Philibert de Commercon. No one on shipboard suspected that the bright, clever, willing young man who bore the hardships of the trip as cheerfully as the others was a woman. And it was not until the boat reached Tahiti that her disguise was discovered, and then it was due to the instinctive keenness of the savages, who greeted her with the cry, "You're a woman?"

When Bougainville asserted her as to the truth of their assertions she burst into tears and told her story, which was that she was born at Buymore, and by the loss of a lawsuit compelled to earn her own living. For this purpose she had donned man's garments and entered the service as valet of a gentleman from Geneva, resident in Paris. Then she had heard of the proposed tour of the world, and immediately her ambition was fired to be the first woman to have circumnavigated the globe. Accordingly she took service with the botanist at Rochefort, knowing that he was to accompany the expedition, and she had been so zealous in her efforts to please him that she had become indispensable to his comfort, and he therefore took

her on the voyage, and her end was accomplished.

It may be remarked that it took the party two years and four months to make the trip. Bare was not conspicuous either for good or bad looks, and was about twenty-six years of age at the time she sailed. She attended Combercon in his last illness, and she ultimately married a soldier.

Louis Herman Tobush was the name of a well-known courier who wore men's clothes for forty-two years with no suspicions as to her sex. Tobush had worked at several trades in different parts of Europe, but finally she adopted the role of courier for parties in Europe and the East. During a voyage from France to Jersey she fell ill, and in the hospital at Jersey she confessed that she had dressed as a man from the time she was thirteen years old.

Her costume at the time she was taken ill consisted of a long overcoat, a fur waistcoat, a stiff hat and a turned-down collar. She smoked pipes, cigarettes and cigars. In her business she had been prosperous and successful, and she had a good balance to her credit at the bankers'.

#### **Count Sandor Vay.**

The story of Count Sandor Vay, of Hungary, is so extraordinary that it has been made the subject of a book by Professor von Krafft Ebbing, the German philosophical writer. The so-called count was really Sarolta Vay, a countess, and the daughter of Ladislas Vay. At the time of her birth, which occurred nine years after the marriage of her mother, the count, for state reasons, particularly desired a boy. The mother was afraid to confess that her first-born was not a boy, and dressed the growing child in all respects like a lad until at the age of fourteen Count Ladislas determined to send his son to a military school.

The mother then told her story. But the trend that had been given to the girl's mind was such that she refused to make any change except under compulsion, and even then she swore that when she came of age she would re-adopt masculine habiliments and astonish the people. And she kept her word royally. At the age of twenty-one she dressed herself as a man in Vienna, Prague and other European capitals. She lived exactly like a man, smoking, drinking, fighting, gaming and swearing, and all so naturally that she was never suspected. Among other vagaries she contracted nine marriages, and left in Vienna six divorced Countesses Vay, two of whom tried to bring suit for alimony.