

A Woman Soldier.

In conversation with Mr. Joseph N. Allen, of No. 88 Fifth street, Brooklyn, a veteran of the war of the rebellion, who was a member of Company I, Second Regiment Michigan Infantry, concerning the petition of Mrs. S. E. Seeley, of Iowa, for a pension for disabilities resulting from service during the war, says the *Grand Army Gazette*, he related the following curious and interesting story concerning the lady and her claim:

"Among those enlisting in Company F of my regiment at the first call for troops in 1861 was a delicate-looking youth, answering to the name of Franklin Thompson, who was mustered into the United States service for three years. After serving two years, and doing all the duties of an enlisted man, going through the different battles of First Bull Run and in the advance on Richmond in 1862 under McClellan, it was discovered that Thompson was a woman. When Thompson first applied to W. R. Morse, who was recruiting Company F for the Second Regiment to serve three months, under the first call for troops in 1861, he was rejected because he did not reach the requisite height. Later, however, when the three months' men returned and were asked to re-enlist for three years, many dropped out. We were then rendezvoused at Fort Wayne, Detroit, and volunteers were asked for. Among the first to respond was Frank, who was accepted. He was faithful and brave, and gained all hearts by his cheerful, obliging activity and good sense. He and I became comrades and warm friends. He stood guard, did police work and fatigue duty and drilled with the rest of us, but was never an expert with the musket. He said his father was a New Brunswick farmer, a mixture of Scotch and Irish, and his mother an Englishwoman. In 1862, Colonel Poe, who commanded the regiment, detailed Frank as mail carrier, in which position he remained until he left the regiment. After leaving the regiment Thompson resumed feminine attire and entered Oberlin College and studied for a time, and then married a Mr. Seeley, who had known her from infancy, and is now a resident of Iowa. This bill, now pending before Congress, is to grant her, in her married name, Mrs. S. E. Seeley, formerly Franklin Thompson, private, of Company F, Second Michigan Infantry, a pension for disabilities, resulting from service during the years she was my comrade and friend in the army. I need hardly add that I was the most surprised of all to learn that she was a woman, for I never suspected it. Mrs. Seeley is also the authoress of the book 'Nurse and Spy,' which is an account of her adventures while a soldier."

We are glad to note that her application for pension has been granted.