

## A Masquerading Musketeer.

[From the Kansas City Times.]

"I think the most peculiar incident that ever came under my notice," said Capt. William R. Morse, of Cincinnati, to a Times reporter at Independence yesterday, "was that of Franklin Thompson. She was born in Newfoundland, and her mother died while she was quite young. At the age of 16 years her father married again. The second mother did not make home a paradise, and Franklin determined to go out into the world and support herself by her own exertions. Having conceived the idea that the world shed its favors unequally, favoring the male more than the female, she adopted the costume of the former and proceeded to Boston. Here she obtained employment with a publishing house as a canvasser, in which position she was very successful. In 1859 she made a tour through Canada, and landed at Flint, Mich., in the early part of 1860. On the 15th day of April of the same year she enlisted in Company F of the second Michigan Infantry, and was mustered in at Detroit on the 26th of May. She followed that regiment through hard-fought battles, never flinched from duty, and was never suspected of being else than that she seemed. By close application to duty and remarkable deportment, she was appointed brigade postmaster, which position aided her in many instances to conceal her indentivity. In the early part of November, 1863, she was attacked with malarial fever, and, fearing she would be sent to the hospital and that exposure would follow, she deserted. Franklin was known by every man in the regiment, and her desertion was the topic of every camp-fire. The beardless boy was a universal favorite, and much anxiety was expressed for her safety. We never heard of her again during the war and could never account for the desertion. About a year after this I received several books from home. Among them was one which attracted my attention, and I became convinced that the author was no other than Franklin Thompson, the boy soldier, who had deserted us at Green River bridge. The book was the "Nurse and Spy." After the war I learned that Franklin Thompson was a woman, and that she was married to a man by the name of Seelye. While at Fort Scott, Kan., a short time ago I heard the name, and immediately thought here was a clew to the long lost Franklin Thompson. I called at the house; a little girl met me at the door. I told her to tell her mother that a gentleman wished to see her, but did not send in my name. I was shown into a neat but plain little parlor. In a few minutes the lady made her appearance and recognized me. I spent a very pleasant hour in talking over old times and in listening to the history of her life. She said that when she deserted she made her way to Louisville and resumed the habiliments of her sex. She entered the Christian Commission and served until the close of the war. During this time she published her book and devoted \$2,000 of the proceeds to the commission. She afterward married and removed to Fort Scott, where she still resides.

"The story was called to my mind again to-day," continued the Captain, "by reading in the report of Congress that a bill was introduced by a congressman from Michigan, asking that the disability of desertion be removed from the record of Franklin Thompson, and that she be granted a pension and receive her back pay. She certainly deserves it, and I hope she may get it."