

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

A STORY OF THE PLAINS BY E. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY

CHAPTER V—Continued.

Franklin looked about him at the squat buildings of the little town, at the black lean of the monotonous and unvaried fields, at the sordid, set and undeveloping lives around him.

The letter of Battersleigh to his friend Captain Franklin fell therefore upon soil already well prepared. He read it again and again in its somewhat formal diction and informal orthography, was as follows:

"My Dear Ned—I have the honor to state to you that I am safely arrived and well established at this place, Ellsville, and am fully disposed to remain. I must tell you that this is to be a great market for Western hogs.

"For myself I have taken entry upon one hundred and sixty Acres Govt. Land, and live a little way out from the town. Here I have my quarters under tent, following example of all men, for as yet there are scarce a dozen houses within fifty miles. I have chosen this point because it was the furthest one yet reached by rail. I have been advised that it is highly desirable to be in at the beginning in this country if one is to

Quixote, but he never forgets a friend. Buffalo and Indians, railroads and hotels—it must at least be a land of contrasts!"

CHAPTER VI.

Edward Franklin, Lawyer.

Edward Franklin had taken up his law studies in the office of Judge Bradley, the leading lawyer of the little village of Bloomsbury, where Franklin was born, and where he had spent most of his life previous to the time of his enlistment in the army.

Thirty-five years earlier, a raw youth from old Vermont, Jollis N. Bradley had walked into the embryonic settlement of Bloomsbury with a single law book under his arm and naught but down upon his chin. He pleaded his first cause before a judge who rode circuit over a territory now divided into three congressional districts. He won his first case, for his antagonist was even more ignorant than he. As civilization advanced he defended fewer men for stealing hogs and more for murder and adultery.

It was an immemorial custom in Bloomsbury for the youth who had aspirations for a legal career to "read law" in Judge Bradley's office. Two of his students had dropped their

street by in perspective before the window, and along it, out beyond the confines of the town, there reached the flat monotony of the dark prairie soil. A dog crossed the street, scratching midway of the crossing to scratch his ear. The cart of the leading grocer was hitched in front of his store, and an idle citizen or two passed near by to exchange a morning greeting.

"Good morning, Ned," said the judge, affably. "Good morning, Judge," said Franklin. "I hope you are well."

"Yes, thank you. Nothing over the matter with me. How are things coming?" "Oh, all right, thank you."

"Not so lucky," said Franklin. "From a friend."

Silence resulted. Judge Bradley opened his desk, took off his coat and hung it on a nail, after his custom, turned over the papers for a moment and remarked absentmindedly, and more to be polite than because the matter interested him, "Friend, eh?"

"Yes," said Franklin, "friend, out West?" and both relapsed again into silence. Franklin once more fell to gazing out of the window, but at length turned toward the desk and pulled over his chair to a closer speaking distance.

"Judge Bradley," said he, "I shouldn't wonder if I could pass my examination for the bar."

"Well, now," said the judge, "I hope you can. That's nice. Goin' to hang out your shingle, eh?"

"I might, if I got my license." "Oh, that's easy," replied the other; "it's mostly a matter of form. No trouble about it—not in the least."

"I am clear in my own mind that I don't know much about law," said Franklin, "and I should not think of going up for examination if that ended my studies in the profession. If I were intending to go into practice here, sir, or near by, I should not think of applying for admission for at least another year. But the fact is, I'm thinking of going away."

"Goin' away?" Judge Bradley straightened up, and his expression if anything was one of relief. He had his own misgivings about this grave-faced and mature young man should be going into the practice at the Bloomsbury bar. It was well enough to encourage such possibilities to take their test in some other locality. Judge Bradley therefore became more cheerful. "Goin' away, eh?" he said. "Where to?"

"Out West," said Franklin, unconsciously repeating the phrase which was then upon the lips of all the young men of the country.

"Out West, eh?" said the judge, with still greater cheerfulness. "That's right, that's right. That's the place to go to, where you can get a better chance. I came West in my day myself, though it isn't West now; an' that's how I got my start. There's ten chances out there to where there's one here, an' you'll get better pay for what you do. I'd advise it, sir—I'd advise it; yes, indeed."

"I think it will be better," said Franklin calmly. (To be continued.)

The Diet Fad. Apropos, the diet craze of the last two or three years may not and does not perform all that it promises for those who listen to the voice of the medical or other faddist, says the London World, but from its extravagances may come ultimate good, and another generation may reap happily where we have sown. The time may come, a great continental doctor believes, when the science of dieting will be so perfected that we shall not merely be able, as we do now, to keep people alive much longer, but we shall likewise keep them in a useful condition. Octogenarians will retain their faculties to the full, senility will be avoided, and if, perhaps, grandfathers and grandmothers do not contrive to preserve their youthful appearance to the end, they will at least, so we are assured, be as clear-brained at 77 as at 27, and thus, with the advantage of ripe experience, they will help on the work of more youthful brains and temper the follies of the rising generation.

A Man's Time to Die. When a man appeared the other day before Justice Blume, in Chicago, and asked for protection against some neighbors who had threatened to kill him, the justice refused to grant the request. When asked for his reasons he said that when it came a man's time to die he would die, and not before. He announced himself as a fatalist and said belief came from his own experiences. He says he has passed through seven accidents, three hold-ups, one fire, two drownings, 150 falls, pneumonia, concussion of the brain, and all the dangers of several battles of the civil war. "If all these things won't kill a man," said the justice, "there is a special Providence looking after him."

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS

COURT CLERK FILES DEMURRER

Declares Judge Has Lost Jurisdiction in Election Contest Case.

The attorneys of Mayor Henry Brueggeman have filed with the supreme court a petition asking that Francis Brandewide, clerk of the Alton city court, be required to send to the court the poll-books and defective ballots as part of the record in the election contest case. When a written demand was made on the clerk to send the defective ballots and the poll-books he declined. Subsequently Judge Vaughn ordered that the ballots and books be included, but Brandewide holds that Judge Vaughn had at that time lost jurisdiction. It is believed that the action of the supreme court on the petition may have an important bearing on the case.

SANITARY RULES FOR SCHOOL

Teacher Issues Orders Forbidding Pupils to Spit.

Waukegan, Ill., special: Miss Miriam Bealey, superintendent of the public schools, has issued an order that all pupils found expectorating on the school grounds, steps, sidewalks, floors or any place on school property are liable to suspension. This beats Dowle, for he does not go so far as to forbid spitting on the ground. She considers it a desirable sanitary measure. She also favors the burning of soiled handkerchiefs instead of washing them.

Farmers Elect Officers.

The McLean County Farmers' Institute at Bloomington adjourned after election of officers as follows: President, J. M. Harvey; vice president, Guy Karr; secretary, R. M. Darst; treasurer, W. F. Mecherle. The classes in stock judging were conducted by W. F. Ambrose of Lexington. The prize for the best display of yellow corn was won by Albert Corning of Bloomington; for best white corn, A. M. Reid of Randolph; for oats, Herman Sleh, Bloomington, won first prize. Delegates to the state institute at Decatur are D. R. Stubbiefield, Covell, A. H. Conger, Fletcher, and James Poindexter, Bloomington.

Thieves Steal Slot Gas Meter.

John Williams, proprietor of the Avenue bar, East St. Louis, reported to the police that robbers broke into his place and carried off a number of valuable articles and about \$10 from his cash register. They also stole the gas meter, which is a slot machine that furnishes gas after a dollar is dropped into the slot. How much money was in it is not known. The thieves turned off the gas before unclogging the meter.

Care for Old Servant.

The death of Frits Winter, an old German who has been in the employ of Maj. W. R. Prickett for the past forty years, occurred in Edwardsville. Winter was 81 years old and a native of Hanover, Germany, moving to Edwardsville when 23 years old. During the past twelve years he has been provided for by Maj. Prickett in recognition of his long and valuable services.

To Entertain Teachers.

The executive board which will make all of the arrangements for the meeting of the county clerks and supervisors in February, met at Cairo and organized. A meeting of all the committees was held, and the entertainment of the Southern Illinois Teachers' association, which will meet in May, was discussed.

Insurance Agent Takes Poison.

A nicely dressed man who registered at a Springfield hotel as Rupert Jordan was found dead in bed. He had committed suicide by taking chloroform. He is about 55 years old. Letters in his possession indicate that he traveled for a life insurance company and that his home was in Milwaukee, Wis.

Foot Is Cut Off by Engine.

John Rohm, a switchman on the Vandalia road, was run over by a switch engine at the Relay depot in East St. Louis. His right foot was cut off by the wheels. Rohm was standing on the footboard and attempted to jump off, when his foot slipped and the fell upon the rails.

Guard Against Fire Horror.

The city officials of Centralia have made a rigid inspection of all the public buildings and halls where people congregate in large numbers. All three-story buildings having only one stairway will be required to provide additional ways of exit or be closed to the public.

Child Burns to Death.

The 2-year-old child of J. H. Monroe of Harrisburg was burned to death and the home destroyed. The mother had gone to a neighbor's.

Horticulturists Elect.

The fifth annual election of officers of the Alton Horticultural society resulted as follows: Hon. H. G. McPike, president; Dr. W. H. C. Smith and William Jackson, vice presidents; Miss Hannah Davis, secretary; Frank Hoffmeister, treasurer. The following were named as members of the various committees: Orchard fruits, T. H. Stahl; small fruits, William Jackson; vineyards, James Davis; vegetable garden, James Davis; ornamental plants, J. H. Packer.

RAILROADS OF STATE PROSPER

Report of Commission Shows All Lines Had Successful Year.

Springfield, Ill., dispatch: Advances sheets of the annual report of the Illinois railroad and warehouse commission for the year 1903 show the railroads of the state have enjoyed a year of unlimited prosperity. Former recommendations for legislation are repeated, especially along the lines looking to a more complete control of the interurban lines by the railroad and warehouse commission. Among other important items it is shown that the total capital stock of all corporations in the state owning roads was increased during the year \$410,617,378. In 1903 the capital stock amounted to \$3,940,393,364. For the year ending June 30, 1903, the total assets of all railroads in the state were \$4,640,383,535, an increase of \$427,198,043. For the same period the total liabilities were \$4,444,268,601, an increase of \$338,520,418. The report says that the total mileage in the state is 18,511, an increase over the year 1902 of 496 miles.

FRATERNAL ELECTIONS.

Eastern Star, Salem.

Odin chapter, Order of Eastern Star, at Salem, has elected these officers: Mrs. H. P. Hurd, worthy matron; F. L. Boring, worthy patron; Miss Nellie Somerville, associate matron; Miss Roxey Somerville, conductress; Miss Alpha Somerville, secretary; Mrs. T. B. Crow, treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Love, warden.

Salem Knights of Pythias.

Clipper lodge, Knights of Pythias, elected these officers: N. A. Blon, chancellor commander; J. L. Laawell, vice chancellor; Thomas Williams, prelate; C. F. Fruet, master of work; E. A. Snelling, keeper of records and seal; J. W. Wilson, master of finance; F. W. Kille, master of equesque; C. W. Witwer, master at arms; Charles West, inner guard; P. A. Shriver, outer guard.

Taylorville Eastern Star.

Glenwood chapter, Order Eastern Star, of Taylorville, has elected the following officers: Worthy matron, Frances Lorton; worthy patron, T. C. Cloyd; secretary, Mamie Stout; treasurer, Nannie Grundy; conductress, Nannie Monegan; associate conductress, Birdie De Spain; chaplain, Mary Almond.

Baptists.

Following are the Mount Vernon First Baptist church officers for 1904: Clerk, A. J. Williamson; treasurer, I. G. Gee; trustee, three years, A. J. Williamson; chorister, Mrs. Lillie Howard; organist, Miss Della Carpenter.

The Christian Endeavor society of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, Mount Vernon, has elected these officers: Leo Varnell, president; Miss Mary Casey, vice president; Clarence Damon, secretary; Miss Katherine Pace, corresponding secretary; Oliver Karch, treasurer; Mrs. Fred Wlecke, organist.

Sends Gold in Letter.

G. W. Leverett of Alton had evidence of confidence reposed in the United States mails by a Colorado man who was remitting \$104 to him. Mr. Leverett received a registered letter from a mail carrier with the explanation noted on the envelope that it had been broken in transit from Denver. Mr. Leverett was surprised to find inside the entire amount of money sent, consisting almost entirely of gold coin. Not one of the coins had been lost during the journey, although the envelope had been broken by the weight of its contents.

Madison Bank Elects Officers.

The stockholders of the Tri-Cities state bank of Madison elected the following directors: Fred Kohl, C. R. Kiser, Henry Melnecke, Charles Eder, Jacob Hensler, G. B. Schooley, J. C. Hinde. The bank will open for business about Jan. 15. It will have a capital stock of \$25,000.

Four-Year-Old Coaster Is Injured.

The 4-year-old son of Oliver Gent, while coasting on Main street in Alton, ran into a post and a sharp point on one of the runners of his sled penetrated his abdomen, inflicting a long and deep wound. It is believed that the boy did not suffer intestinal injury and that he will recover.

Stock Fishing Pond.

Frank B. Bowman has ordered 30,000 bass and croppie for the fishing station at New Athens. The fish will be placed in the ponds of the clubhouse premises under the direction of G. A. Franks and members of the Illinois fish commission.

Tax Rate Increases.

The 1904 tax rate in Decatur is fixed at 7.00% on each \$100. This is 8% cents higher than last year.

Closes Contract for Light.

The Centralia city council has closed a contract with the gas and electric light syndicate to furnish ninety 1,400-candlepower arc lights on an all-night schedule for a period of five years at \$4,000 a year.

Allen Blends Gully.

Charles Allen, who was recently brought back from England as a champion of robbing the Springfield and Alton roads, is now a member of the local police force.

THREE WOMEN CLAIM DESERTER AS HUSBAND

Two Alleged Wives of Former Army Officer Reside in the Same Block in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minn., special: Three women now claim as husband Edward C. Hazard, the former United States army officer arrested here on a bigamy charge. Strangely enough, two of his alleged wives live in the same block in this city.

Dr. Linda Burfield, when Hazard claims to be his only legal wife, made the following statement:

"I am the only wife of Mr. Hazard. I was divorced and then remarried him. I was called into the house where he lived with another woman to treat him for an illness, and I fell in love with him and with me. He was not married to the other woman, but she followed him about, and, to protect her, he said she was his wife. I shall do all in my power to help him."

Agnes Hadley Hammad of New York instituted divorce proceedings in the supreme court of that county, New York, April 7, 1902. The divorce giving her first wife the right to marry, but explicitly prohibiting Hammad from marrying until she died.

Dispatches from Washington state that the first news the war department had had of him since he was dropped from the army rolls in May, 1902, as a deserter.

Hazard graduated from West Point in 1889, and was stationed at the military academy as instructor of modern languages from 1892 until 1898. He then served as adjutant of the academy until 1900. He served in an artillery regiment a few months at Fort Barancas, Fla., and then suddenly disappeared. Later he was dropped as a deserter. His home was in Pottsville, Pa.

ARGUE AGAINST MERGER.

Attorneys for Minnesota Attack Southern Railway Company Before Court.

Washington special: The argument in the suit of the State of Minnesota against the Northern Securities merger was begun before the United States supreme court Thursday. The entire time of the session was taken up by the attorneys for Minnesota, who brought out the features of the litigation which are different from the government's suit against the merger. Attorney General Douglas of Minnesota held that in the case of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads there was a purpose to violate the state law and create a monopoly, and he urged that the state had the right to prohibit such a monopoly, although undertaken by a corporation of the state, the formation of a company being incorporated in New York.

Naval Training Station.

Washington dispatch: Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of the navy, urged the House committee on naval affairs to authorize the establishment of a naval training station at Annapolis, Md., which would be a permanent institution for the training of naval cadets.



stay in the Hunt, therefore I have come to a town which has just begun. Believe me, dear Ned, it is the beginning of a world. Such chances are here, I am sure as do not exist in any other land, for behind this land is all the richer and older parts, which are but waiting to pour money and men hither so soon as the Ry. shall be fully completed. I have heard of many men who have made fortunes since the war. It is truly a rapid land.

"I am persuaded, my dear boy, that this is the place for you to come. There are as hundred ways in which one may earn a respectable living, and I find here no class distinction. It is an extraordinary fact that no man and no profession ranks another here. One man is quite good as another."

"A year from now, as I am told, we shall have 2,000 persons living here, and in five years this will be a city. Conceive the opportunity meaning. The cattle business is bound to grow, and I am advised that all this land will ultimately be farmed and prove rich as that through which I pass in coming out. You are welcome, my dear Ned, as I am sure you know, to half my blankets and rations during your stay here, however long same may be, and I most cordially invite you to come out and look over this country, nor do I have the smallest doubt that it will seem to you quite as it does to me, and I shall hope that we make a citizen of you."

"I am but new here as yet myself, but am fully disposed, as they say in the strange language here, to drive my stake. I want you, my dear boy, also to drive yours beside me and to that effect I beg to extend you whatever Aid may lie in my power."

"Hoping that you may receive this communication duly, and make reply to same, and hoping above all things that I may soon meet again my companion of the 47th, I beg to subscribe myself, my dear boy, ever your Obedt. & Affect. Friend."

"Battersleigh. One morning after Franklin had finished his task of sweeping down the stairs, he sat him down by the window with Battersleigh's letter in his hand; for this was now the third day since he had received this letter, and it had been in his mind more vividly present than the pages of the work on contracts with which he was then occupied. It was a bright, fresh morning in the early spring. A long and heavy

books to take up rifles, and they came not back to their places. They were forgotten, save once a year, upon Decoration Day, when Judge Bradley made eloquent tribute above their graves.

It was therefore predetermined that Edward Franklin should go into the office of Judge Bradley to begin his law studies, after he had decided that the profession of the law was the one likely to offer him the best career.

It was one of the unvarying rules of Judge Bradley's office, and indeed this was almost the only rule which he imposed, that the law student within his gates, no matter what his age or earlier servitude, should each morning sweep out the office, and should, when so requested, copy out any law papers needing to be executed in duplicate. So long as a student did these things, he was welcome as long as he cared to stay.

Edward Franklin accepted his seat in Judge Bradley's office without any reservations, and he paid his daily fee of ten cents as had all the other students before him, scorning not the broom. Ardent, ambitious and resolute, he fell upon Blackstone. Chitly and Kent as though he were asked to carry a redoubt. He read six, eight, ten hours a day, until his head buzzed, and he forgot what he had read. Then at it all over again, with teeth set. Thus through more than a year he toiled, lashed forward by his own determination, until at length he began to see some of the beautiful first principles of the law. So in his second year Franklin fared somewhat beyond principles merely, and got into notes and bills, torts, contracts and remedies. He learned with a shiver how a promise might legally be broken, how a gift should be regarded with suspicion, how a sacred legacy might be set aside. He read these things again and again, and forced them into his brain, so that they might never be forgotten; yet this part of the law he loved not so much as its grand first principles of truth and justice.

One morning after Franklin had finished his task of sweeping down the stairs, he sat him down by the window with Battersleigh's letter in his hand; for this was now the third day since he had received this letter, and it had been in his mind more vividly present than the pages of the work on contracts with which he was then occupied. It was a bright, fresh morning in the early spring. A long and heavy