THE GIRL HALFWAY HOUSE

A STORY OF THE PLAINS BY E. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY Copyrighted, 1908, by D. Appleton & Company, New York

CHAPTER VII.-Continued.

locality, but he heard his voice, half taunting and half encouraging, and calling on his pluck as he saw some hope of a successful issue, he resolved to ride it out if it lay within him so to do. He was well on with his resolution when he heard another voice, which he recognized clearly.

"Good boy, Ned," cried out this voice heartily, though likewise from some locality yet vague. "R-ride the divil to a finish, me boy! Git up his head, Ned! Git up his head! The murderin', haythin' brute! Kill him! Ride him out!"

And ride him out Franklin did, perhaps as much by good fortune as by skill, though none but a shrewd horseman would have hoped to do this feat. Hurt and jarred, he yet kept upright, and at last he did get the horse's head up and saw the wild performance close as quickly as it had begun. The pony ceased his grunting and fell into a stiff trot, with little to indicate his hidden pyrotechnic quality. Franklin whirled him around and rode up to where Battersleigh and Curly had now joined. He was a bit pale, but he pulled himself togeth- bers so desperately large that their point of this intersection the driver er well before he reached them and dismounted with a good front of unconcern. Battersleigh grasped his hand in both his own and greeted him with a shower of welcomes and of compliments. Curly slapped him heartily upon the shoulders.

"You're all right, pardner," said he. "You're the d-dest best pilgrim that ever struck this place, an' I kin lick ary man that says differ'nt. He's yore horse, now, shore."

"And how do ye do, Ned? God bless ye!" said Battersleigh a moment later, after things had become more tranquil. "I'm glad to see ye; glad as ivver I was in all me life to see a livin' soul! Why didn't ye tell ye was comin', and not come ridin' like a murderin Cintaur-but ay, boy, ye're building after building along its strag-

are ye goin' to like it here, me boy?"

"Well, Battersleigh," he said, "I

must say I've been pretty busy ever

since I got here, and so far as I can

tell at this date, I'm much disposed to

think this is a strange and rather rap-

id sort of country you've got out

"Best d-n pilgrim ever hit this

"Shut up, Curly, ye divvil!" said

Battersleigh. "Come into the house,

the both of you. It's but a poor house,

but ye're welcome. An' welcome ye

are, too, Ned, me boy, to the New

CHAPTER VIII.

The Beginning.

soil of the new land. His soul reached

out and laid hold upon the sky, the

harsh flowers, the rasping wind. He

gave, and he drank in. Thus grew

"Think you, Ned, my boy," said Bat-

tersleigh, one day, as they stood at

the tent door-"think you, this old

lion years, by billions of people, and

yet here we have a chance to own a

the people of the West.

Franklin's foot took hold upon the

of salutations.

World."

he was the guiding mind in the at Franklin had small notion of Curly's fairs of the odd partnership which now sprang between him and his friend. Battersleigh would have lived till autumn in his tent, but Franklin saw that the need of a house was immediate. He took counsel of Curly, the cowboy, who proved guardian and benefactor. Curly forthwith produced a workman, a giant Mexican, a half-witted moso, who had followed the cow bands from the far South west, and who had hung about Curly's own place as a sort of menial, bound to do unquestionably whatever Curly bade. This curious being, a very colossus of strength, was found to be possessed of a certain knowledge in building houses after the fashion of that land-that is to say, of sods and earthen unbaked bricks—and since under his master's direction he was not less serviceable than docile, it was not long before the "claim" of Battersleigh was adorned with a comfortable house fit for either winter or summer habitation.

> Even in the "first year" the settler of the new West was able to make his living. He killed off the buffalo swiftly, but he killed them in numbones lay in uncounted tons all over a desolated empire. First the hides and then the bones of the buffalo gave the settler his hold upon the land, which perhaps he could not else have

Franklin saw many wagons coming and unloading their cargoes of bleached bones at the side of the railroad tracks. There was a market for all this back in that country which had conceived this road across the desert. Franklin put out a wagon at this industry, hauling in the fuel and the merchandise of the raw plains. He bought the grim product of others who were ready to sell and go out the earlier again.

Meantime the little town added

centrifugence. Having arrived, we wave scented kerchiefs between us and the thought of such a beginning of our prosperity. Having lost touch of the earth, having lost sight of the sky, we opine there could have been small augur in a land where each man found joy in an earth and sky which to him seemed his own. There were those who knew that joy and who forecaw its passing, yet they were happy. CHAPTER IX.

The New Movers. Far away, across the wide gray plain, appeared a tiny dot, apparently an unimportant fixture of the landscape. An hour earlier it might not have been observed at all by even the keenest eye, and it would have needed yet more time to acsure an

observer even now that the dot was a moving object. Presently an occasional side-blown puff of dust added a certain heraldry, and thus finally the white-topped wagon and its plodding team came fully into view, crawling ever persistently from the East to the West. Meantime, from the direction of the

north, there came traveling across the prairie another cloud of dust more rapid than that stirred up by the slowmoving emigrant wagon. Sam, the stage driver, was crossing on his regular buckboard trip from Ellisville to Plum Centre, and was now nearly half-way on his journey. Obviously the courses of these two vehicles must intersect, and at the natural of the faster pulled up and waited for the other. "Movers" were not yet so common in that region that the stage driver, natural news agent, must not pause for investigation.

The driver of the wagon, a tall, dark man, drew rein with a grave salutation, his tired borses standing with drooping heads while there took place one of the pregnant conversations of the plains.

"Mornin', friend," said Sam. "Mornin', sir," said the other.

"Which way you headin', friend?" asked Sam.

"Well, sir," came the answer, slowly, "I rather reckon you've got me, I've just been movin' on out. I want to locate, but I reckon my team could travel a little further if they had to," This with a certain grimness in his smile, as though he realized the whimsicality of the average motive which governed in that day in quests like his. "Is there much travel comin' through here this season?" he resumed, turning in his seat and resting one foot on the wheel as he sat still perched on the high wagon seat.

much just yet, but they will be pretty soon. You see, the Land Office is about sixty miles east of here yet. and folks is mostly stoppin' in there. Land around here is pretty much all open yet. If they move the Land Ofland will be taken up a good deal faster."

"Is it good farmin' land around

"Sure, Better'n it is farther west, and just as good as it is farther east. Wheat'll do well here, and it ain't too cold for corn. Best cow country on earth." "How is Ellisville doing now?"

"Bloomin'."

"Yes, sir, so I heard farther back. Is it goin' to be a real town?"

"That's whatever! How can it help | March 19-21. it? It's goin' to be a division point on the road. It's goin' to have all the cattle-shippin' trade. After a while it'll have all the farmin' trade. It's goin' to be the town, all right, don't you neglect that. Yes, sir, Ellisville is the place!"

"Which way are you bound, sir?" asked the stranger, still sitting, apparently in thought, with his chin resting on his hand.

(To be continued.)

Waits for His Master.

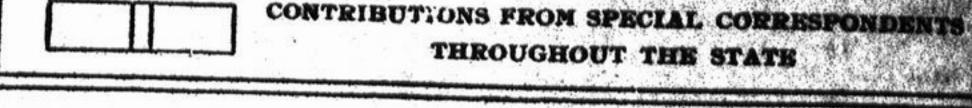
"Hello, Ribs, he ain't on this train!" Thus brakeman or baggagemaster greets a big black and white dog which every evening trots down to the station in a small Pennsylvania town to meet the train on which his master used to come home.

Ribs' maste: has not come home on the train for many months. He was conductor of a train which was wrecked, and was killed. But Ribs has never missed a train. He stands on the platform wagging his tail, his tongue hanging out, an expression of anxious hope in his eyes, waiting for his master.

When one of the trainmen explains, "He ain't on this train," the red tongue goes slowly back into the big mouth, the strong jaws close, the shaggy tail drops and Ribs turns and walks back to his kennel. But on the following day he appears promptly in time for his master's usual train, and waits until some one of the pitying train hands tells him, "He ain't come in yet!"

No Love of God in a Footnote.

Dr. Charles Parkhurst of New York believes in people saying just what they mean, and says he has a horror of footnotes. "Whenever I see a footnote," he says, "I am always remindadded, mitigating somewhat the harsher statement. Then up jumped to run only in the front rank. He was later, as they have ever done in the the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby. "I of not content to dream. He saw the | development of communities, builded | ject, gentlemen, he said. I will not



PECULIAR ACCIDENT AT PANA | HUNTING PARTY IS BROKEN UP. | BREAKS WILL AT

Two Handcars Collide and Hotelkeeper is Badly injured.

A. J. Mack of the Flint hotel, Pana, and several section men were more or less seriously injured, the result of an unusual accident which occurred on the Big Four railroad near the hotel. Mr. Mack was walking down the track from the station and had nearly reached the hotel as two handcars came up behind him from the west, close together. The first handcar contained eight men and the second ten. The cars did not slacken speed, expecting Mr. Flint would leave the track. The leading car struck and knocked him to the ground, seriously injuring him. The jolt threw every man from the handcar and all were more or less hurt. The second car, coming at good speed, dashed into the first and threw all its passengers to the ground, bruising them severely.

TWO DEEDS TO SAME PARCEL

Tenant is Perplexed When it Comes to Paying Rent.

Two parties holding deeds to the same piece of ground was the caus of a lawsuit which was tried before Squire Stehlin at Bunker Hill. In 1900 the court sold a three-acre tract of land belonging to the Gaunt estate to Mrs. Eliza Walker in Gillespie. Two years afterward the same piece of land was sold by Miss Chrissie Gaunt to Mrs. Amelia Pennington of Bunker Hill. Later, the ground was rented, and when the tenant was to pay the rent two people claimed the money. Squire Stehlin decided in favor of Mrs. Walker, who held the deed from the court. An appeal has been taken to the Macoupin County Circuit court.

Sunday School Conventions. The executive committee of the Jackson county Sunday school association has announced the dates for township conventions as follows: Murphysboro, March 27; Somerset, June 19; Grand Tower, April 11; Kinkald, June 26; Carbondale, April 18; Sand Ridge, July 3; Ora, June 24; Degognia, July 10; De Soto, May 1; Fountain Bluff, July 17; Elk, May 8; Vergennes, May 15; Pomona, May 22; "Well," replied Sam, "they ain't so Levan, May 29; Makanda, June 5; Bradley, June 12. The following are the county officers: President, Prof. E. J. Klemme of Murphysboro; secretary, Chrissa Haldeman of Pomona; executive committee-W. A. Schwartz of Carbondale, W. P. Wilson of Bradfice to the track-end, of course all this ley and J. J. Preiser of Murphysboro.

> M. E. Salem District Dates. Dr. W. H. Nelson, presiding elder of Salem district, Methodist Episcopal church south, has announced the following quarterly meeting assignments for the second quarter of the conference year; Clarksdale and Xenia, Jan. 30-31; Pana and Clay City, Feb. 6-7; Tower Hill and Altamont, Feb. 13-14; Patoka, Feb. 20-21; Denison, Feb. 27-28; Casey, March 5-6; Kinmundy, March 12-13; Salem and Vandalia,

Trades Assembly Election. The Belleville trades and labor assembly has elected the following officers: President, James Borden; vice-president, Charles Bender; recording secretary, E. P. Leuschner; corresponding secretary, Chas. Muendlein; financial secretary, William C. Spies; treasurer, J. P. Face; business agent, James Borden.

Dedicate Odd Fellows' Home. The new home of the Dixon Odd Fellows was dedicated Jan. 20 with impressive ceremonies. The hall is a three-story pressed brick building with carved stone ornaments, and cost \$30,000. The construction was made possible by a legacy from the late C. F. Emerson of \$20,000.

Honor Old Odd Fellow. Capt. Jones Worden, the oldes member of the Upper Alton Odd Fellows' lodge, celebrated his 82d birthday Jan. 21. Members of the lodge gave him an informal surprise party

Must Ride on Regular Train. All railroads centering in Chicago have decided to forbid passengers to ride on freight trains, which will be a hard blow to commercial travelers.

State Fair Dates,

The state board of agriculture is railroad and warehouse commission sending out cards announcing the Illinois state fair dates as September 29 to October 7.

Farm Hand Is Killed. Robert McKenzie, a young hand, was accidentally killed by train on the Illinois Central railroad near Maroa.

Land Transfers. Edward Rose of Bunker Hill has purchased the southwest quarter of section 11 from J. M. Cooper for \$2,

Mrs. Mary Drew of Bunker Hill has sold her farm of eighty acres to T. J. Lukne. Consideration, \$3,400.

Lost Summons Causes Buit. Circuft Clerk Isane B. Betts of Fear of the Law Saves the Life of a Venturesome Stag.

The discovery that the Illinois game law forbids the killing of deer in the state for ten years cut short a projected hunt in the vicinity of Newbern and Dow, in Jersey county. Deer are practically unknown in that part of the state. Recently a large stag appeared in the streets of Newbern and from there ran to the neighboring town of Dow. The animal was seen by many people in Newbern, and in a few minutes the telephone lines were busy. A hunting party was quickly formed, but when it was suggested that perhaps the killing of the animal might be in conflict with the game law, a telephone message was sent to the county seat, and there information was obtained that a heavy fine would be imposed for killing the will and it was set aside by a animal. The party disbanded.

PREPARE FOR THE G. A. R. MEET

Springfield Veterans Co-Operate to Entertain War Comrades.

All local posts of the G. A. R. have united to make laborate plans for the state encampment of the Grand Army, which will be held in Springfield May 10-12. Committees have been named as follows: Executive, Capt. P. W. Harts, John B. Inman, E. L. Johnson, Lincoln Dubois, W. H. Newlin, John C. Bell, C. E. Hay, E. A. Hall, J. W. Southwich, John G. Roberts, Thomas Rees, W. H. Conkling, John C. Pierik, Joseph Klaholt, J. A. Hall and E. S. Scott; finance committee, Mayor Harry Devereux, Fred Buck, W. W. Sweet, B. R. Hieronymus, Gen. Alfred Orendorff, E. A. Hall and Bluford Wilson.

Heirs to \$30,000,000.

An organization of the Starr familles and their descendants was effected at Red Bud for the purpose of pushing their claims to an estate in Baltimore, Md., amounting to over \$30,000,000. In 1797 one of the Starr ancestors leased a large tract of land to a company for a term of ninetynine years. This lease expired in 1896, and the company attorneys made an effort to locate the heirs, but did not succeed in doing so. This fact the Starr family ascertained a short time ago, and steps were immediately begun to establish their claim.

Launch for Naval Militia.

Congressman W. A. Rodenburg has sent word to the Alton division of naval militia that he has made formal application to the secretary of the navy for a steam launch for use by the militia. Cougressman Rodenburg thinks that to facilitate the division in its work and to add to the interest now taken in the organization steam launch should be provided.

Divorce or Pension?

Mrs. George Heatherly of Alton, a blind woman, will be the first applicant for a county pension of \$150 under a new law. Her husband has been fined frequently for spending money for drink that was given her by charitable people, and before receiving the pension she will be required to get a divorce.

Odd Division of Estate.

The late Thomas Lewis, by his will, which has just been filed for probate at Decatur, bequeathed \$500 to Mary Lewis, a daughter; \$5 to Ben Lewis, a son, and \$1 to Michael Purcell, a grandson. The remainder of the es tate is left to Davis and Will Levis,

Kills Innocent Man.

Allen Woodard, a contracting carpenter, was accidentally killed at Bloomington by Edward Maher, a bartender. George Kistner assaulted Maher with bricks. Maher fired two shots, one striking Kistner in the arm and the other penetrating the heart of Woodard, who was passing.

Claims Mormons Threaten Woman. According to officers of the Illinois W. C. T. U. the elders of the Mormon church in Chicago have threatened the life of Mrs. Maria Reed, a speaker of the national W. C. T. U., who has been lecturing against Mormonism in that city. Mrs. Reed lived for a time in Utah.

Want Rates Reduced. Decatur shippers, jobbers and manufacturers have decided to make another appeal to Gov. Yates and the

for a reduction of the local rates.

reduction was promised some months Interurban to Run Aug. 1. The management of the Springfield

and Decatur interurban railroad says cars will be running between Decatur and Springfield by Aug. 1.

Want Curfew to Ring. The ministers of Taylorville have petitioned the city council to pass a curlew ordinance, and their request will likely be granted. They desire that all boys under 15 years of age b compelled to be off the streets at 8 Ing Sept. 4. o'clock in the evening.

Water Drillers Strike Oil Willis farm, in

Luther T. Scott

elated over his the will of his father, Capt. who left the bulk of his Swedenborgian society Capt. Scott died about a When his will was offer bate his friends were learn that his son Luther had off with a very small portion estate. It was then learned the Scott had made several w the period of a few weeks. of his property in differ Friends were ready to testify the was not in his right mind. Scott, his only child, co Judge Burroughs' court in I Mr. Scott will now come in for all I estate, amounting to \$30,000, after 1 dower interest of his mother. ber of friends serenaded Mr. his home last evening and lated him upon his success.

Bankruptcy Petitions. William Owens of Taylorville has filed a petition in bankrupter in f United States district court. His bilities are scheduled at \$2,268 assets \$2,814.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 21,-Henry Linne a baker of Danville, filed a tition in bankruptcy, schedul liabilities as \$4,783.98 and his at as nothing.

A petition was filed by John An residing near Pleasant Plain, mon county, who scheduled his Hall ties as \$1,866.26 and his assets as \$150

Funeral of Mrs. Mendenhall. The remains of Mrs. Isabel Mes hall were conveyed to burial. She died at the orphans' home at Bloomington, 96. Her son-in-law, Col. R. S. M. Cauley, is superintendent of the inst tution. Deceased was one of the old est members of the Rebeksh order the obligation being administered a Olney in 1851 by Schuyler Colfax, a erward vice-president. She was pr dent of the sanitary and Christian commission of Indiana under Gov Morton.

Steale Gas Meter. Charles T. Edwards, colored,

caught in the act of stealing a slo gas meter from the saloon of Cleme tine Jones in East St. Louis. The meter contained \$3.50. Edwards at mitted that he is one of a gang of negroes who have been stealing gas meters for some time. He claims that they have succeeded in getting away with about thirty-five, containing from \$3 to \$5 each.

Snow Explodes Slag Pile. Snow caused an explosion of siag taken from a smelting furnace at the

Federal lead plant in Alton. Roy Hartman was severely burned on the face and neck and Frank Hurlord's face was burned slightly. The men were dumping the contents of a tub for hauling siag. When the tub was turned over the molten lead and slag exploded from contact with a snow

Miner is Killed in Explosion While making a test of a new smokeless blasting powder in the mine of the Chicago-Virden Coal of at Virden James Williams, a miss was killed, and Mine Manager John Handley was quite badly burned about the hands and face. Williams was in the act of tamping the charge when if exploded.

Observes 104th Birthday. Leonard Roeder, one of the earts settlers in Quincy, and probably the oldest man in western Illinois, quieth observed the 104th anniversary of his birth Jan. 21. He has the distinction of being in the duke of Wellington army at his victory at Waterloo and is very well preserved at his advanced

Y. M. C. A. Meet at Alton. The committee representing the Al ton Y. M. C. A. returned from Chi cago, bringing with them the decision of the state executive comm adopting Alton as the convention elty

Minera' Delegate. The United Mine Workers' local Taylorville has selected L G. From as a delegate to the state miners' e vention to be held at Springfield February.

Gets Collar and Cuff Factory company of New York has made rangements to locate its week tory at Pana.

Allitia Encame Gen. Scott to the effect guard would be hald at it

great things shead, and the small mainly upon the foundation of in- have the love of God put in a fool hings that lay between. In a week dividual aggressiveness and individual note."

part of it, each for himself, here, at this last minute of the world's life! Do you mind that, what it means? Never you think a chance like that'll last forever. Yet here we are, before the law, and almost antedatin' the social ijee. It's the beginnin', man, it's the very beginnin' of things, where we're standin' here, this very half dreamily and unconsciously re-

At last he did get the horse's head up. a rider-worthy the ould Forty-siv- | gling street. These new edifices were enth-yis, more, I'll say ye might be a for the most part used as business officer in the guards, or in the Rile places, the sorts of commerce being Irish itself, b'gad, yes, sir!-Curly, ye two-"general merchandise," divvil, what do ye mean by puttin' which meant chiefly saddles and fireme friend on such a brute, him the arms, and that other industry of new first day in the land? And, Ned, how lands which flaunts under such signboards as the Lone Star, the Happy Franklin wiped his forehead as he Home, the Quiet Place, the Cowboy's replied to Battersleigh's running fire Dream and such descriptive nomenclature. Of fourteen busines houses, nine were saloons, and all these were pros-

by one, then in a body, as though struck by panic, the white tents of the railroad laborers vanished, passing on yet farther to the West, only the engineers remaining at Ellisville and prosecuting from the roded!" repeated Curly, with convic- haven of the stone hotel the work of continuing the line. The place of the tents was taken by vast white-topped wagons, the creaking cook carts of the cattle trail, and the van of the less nomadic man. It was the beginning of the great cattle drive from the Southern to the Northern ranges, a strange, wild movement in Ameri

can life which carried in its train a

set of conditions as vivid and peculiar as they were transient. Ellisville lay at an eddy in the Plains and gathered toll of the strange driftwood which was then affoat. Though the chutes at the railway were busy, yet other herds of cattle passed Ellisville and wandered on north, crowding at the heels of the passing Indians, who now began to see their own cattle to be doomed. gray world has been inhabited a mile The main herd of the buffalo was now reported to be three or four days' drive from Ellisville, and the men who killed for the railroad camps uttered loud complaints. The skinhunting still went on. Great wagons, loaded with parties of rough men, passed on out, bound for the inner haunts, where they might still find their prey. The wagons came creaking back loaded with bales of the shaggy brown robes, which gave the blessed day of grace. It's Batty has skin-hunters money with which to ed of a certain Presbyterian church traveled all his life, and seen the join the cowmen at the drinking meeting. One statute drawn up perlands, but never did Batty live till places. Not sinless was this society tained to the love of the Almighty, at its incipiency. In any social at- and it was stated in the rigid, old-"It's grand," murmured Franklin, mosphere good and evil are necessary fashioned Presbyterian style, with concomitants. Sinless men would more of sternness than love in it. peating the very words of his friend, form a community at best but perish. One of the more gentle Presbyterian able. Tolerance, submission, patriot- brethren suggested that a foot-note be Yet Franklin was well bitten of the | ism so called, brotherly love ambition germ. It would serve him | named—all these things were to come