AT THE GIRL HOUSE

STORY OF THE PLAINS BY E. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY Copyrighted, 1908, by D. Appleton & Company, New York Elmonghown promphonoghous (3)

CHAPTER 1X .-- Continued.

up below here about twenty mile-old | mam!" man Plum's town, Plum Centre. I run the mail an' carry folk acrost from Ellisville to that place. This here is just about half way acrost, Ellisville's | decided. There was a relief at once about twenty or twenty-five mile north | upon every countenance. Now these of here."

The tall man on the wagon sear turned his face slowly back toward the interior of the wagon.

"What do you think, Lizzie?" he of the buckboard and offered his hand. asked.

"Dear me, William," came reply from the darkness in a somewhat complaining voice, "how can I tell? It all seems alike to me. You can-

judge better than I." "What do you say, niece?"

The person last addressed rested a hand upon the questioner's shoulder and lightly climbed out upon the seat by his side, stooping as she passed under the low bow of the cover frame. Her presence caused Sam to instinctively straighten up and tug at his open coat. He took off his hat with a memory of other days, and said his "Good mornin" as the schoolboy does to his teacher-superior, revered and awesome.

bare little scene was not of a sort to terrify. Tall she was and shapely, comely with all the grace of youth and health, not yet tanned too brown by the searing prairie winds, and showing still the faint purity of the complexion of the South. To Sam it was instantaneously evident that here was a new species of being, one of which he had but the vaguest notions through any experiences of his own. His chief impression was that he was at once grown small, dusty and much unshaven. He flushed as he shifted

try. 'Tain' good as Mizzoury, let 'lone "Well, you see another town goin' Kaintucky er Ole Vehginny-no,

There was thus now established, by the chance of small things, the location of a home. It was done. It was persons were become citizens of this and. Unwittingly, or at least tacitly, this was admitted when the leader of this little party advanced to the side

"My name is Buford," he said slowly and with grave courtesy. "This is my wife; my niece, Miss Beauchamp. Your name, sir, I don't know, but we are very glad to meet you."

"My name's Poston," said Sam, as he also now climbed down from his seat, seeing that the matter was clinched and that he had gained a family for his county-"Sam Poston. run the livery barn. Do you allow you'll move up to Ellisville and live there?"

"Well, I've started out to get some land," said Buford, "and I presume that the first thing is to find that and get the entry made. Then we'll have to live on it till we can commute it. I don't know that it would suit us at Yet this new character upon this Ellisville just yet. It must be a rather hard town, from all I can learn, and hardly fit for ladies."

"That's so," said Sam, "it ain't just the quietest place in the world for women-folks. Still," he added apologetically, "folks soon gets used to the noise. I don't mind it no more at all."

Buford smiled as he glanced quizzically at the faces of his "womenfolks." At this moment Sam broke out with a loud exclamation.

"Now, you listen to me. I'll tell you what! You see, this here place where we are now is just about a mile



He kicked aside a bleached buffalo skull.

with her curved hand.

should think-"

tion from farther back in the wagon. from Ellis down to Plum Centre, and nag been exhausted. They pushed on A large black face appeared at the it's too long a trip to make between aperature under the front wagon bow, meals. You just go down to the and the owner of it spoke with a cer- White Woman and drive your stake tain oracular vigor.

stop right yer! I 'clare, I'se jess | quick as you can-I'll git you help wore to a plum frazzle, a-travelin' an' for that. Now, if you can git anything a-travelin'! Ef we gwine settle, why, to cook, and can give meals to my less settle, thass all I say!"

The driver of the wagon sat silent | through here, why, I can promise you, for a moment. Then quietly, and you'll git business, and you'll git awith no comment, he unbuckled the plenty, too." reins and threw them out and down

"Whoa, boys," he called to the little apart from the others. norses, which were too weary to note | smiled again with the quizzical look that they were no longer asked to go on his face. "How about that, Aunt farther on. Then the driver got de- Lucy?" he asked.

liberately down. "We'll turn out here," he said, striking his heel upon the grown with significant gesture, as was an unconscious custom among the men who chose out land for themselves in a new region. "We'll stop here for a bite to eat, and I reckon we won't go any farther west. How is this country around here for water?"

you couldn't very well hit it much bet- nouse or dugout for the first season, ter. Less'n a mile farther down this trail to the south you come to the It's pretty late to do anything with Sinks of the White Woman Creek. They's most always some water in | breakin' done, but you can take your that creek, and you can git it there | team and gether bones this fall and any place by diggin' ten or twenty | winter, and that'll make you a good

"That's good," said the stranger. "That's mighty good." He turned to the wagon side and called out to his wife, "Come, Lizzie," he said, "get out, dear, and take a rest. We'll have a bite to eat and then we'll talk this ed you'd never ranched it much," he all over."

The woman to whom he spoke next | come out here?" appeared at the wagon front and was aided to the ground. Tall, siender, Buford's face. "I think I shall have to black clad, with thin, pale face, she give that up, on my honor," he said. seemed even more unsuited than her husband to the prospect which lay and to have kept going until we got before them. Immediately behind her here." there clambered down from the wagon, with many groanings and complaints, the goodly bulk of the black | don't make no difference where you woman who had earlier given her ad- come from; we want good men in vice. "Set down yer, Mis' Lizzie, in here, and you'll find this a good counthe shade," she said, spreading a try, I'll gamble that. Now I must be rug upon the ground upon the side of gittin' along over toward Plum Centhe wagen farthest from the sun, "Set | tre, See you again if you stop in down an' git a ress. Gawd knows we here on White Woman-see you sevall needs it—this yer fo'saken ken eral times a week, like enough. You

ment in silence, shading her eyes still | that is, as I was sayin', just about half | series of rude and wild-looking hills way betwen Ellisville and Plum Cen-"It is much alike, all this country, I tre. Now, look here. This country's ed through this difficult and cheerless goin' to boom. They's goin' to be a region, the horses soon showing signs But what she would have thought plenty of people come in here right of distress and all the party feeling was broken into by a sudden exclama- along. There'll be a regular travel need of water, of which the supply there. Take up a quarter for each "Fo' Gawd, Mass' William, less jess of you. Put you up a sod house as stage outfit when I carry passengers

Unconsciously Buford's eye wanderupon the ground on either side of the ed over to the portly form of the negress, who sat fanning herself, a

> "Do hit, Mass' William," replied the colored woman at once with conviction, and extending an energetic forefinger. "You dess do what this yer man says. Ef they's any money to be made a-cookin', I kin do all the cookin' ever you wants, et you-all kin git any-

thing to cook. Yas, suh!" "You ain't makin' no mistake," resumed Sam. "You go in and git your "Oh, that?" said Sam. "Why, say, land filed on, and put you up a sod because lumber's awful high out here. a crop this year, even if you had any livin, too. But-'scuse me, have you ever farmed it much?"

"Well, sir." said Buford slowly, used to plant corn and cotton, back in Kentucky, befo' the war."

Sam looked at him, puzzled. "I allowsaid, vaguely. "How'd you happen to

The quizzical smile again crossed "We just seem to have started West,

"From Kentucky, eh?" said Sam slowly and meditatively. "Well, it

must come up to Ellis soon as you git straightened out. Say," and he drew Buford to one side as he whispered to him-"say, they's a mighty fine girl-works in the depot hotel-Nory's her name-you'll see her if you ever come up to town. I'm awful gone on that girl, and if you git any chanct, if you hapen to be up there, you just put in a good word for me, won't you? I'd do as much for you."

Buford listened with grave politeness, though with a twinkle in his eye. and promised to do what he could. Encouraged at this, Sam stepped up and shook hands with Mrs. Buford, and with the girl, not forgetting Aunt Lucy; an act which singularly impressed that late inhabitant of a different land, and made him her fast friend for life.

"Well, so long," he said to them all in general as he turned away, "and good luck to you. You ain't makin' no mistake in settlin' here. Good-bye till I see you all again."

He stepped into the buckboard and clucked to his little team, the dust again rising from under the wheels. The eyes of those remaining followed him already yearningly. As Buford turned he stumbled and kicked aside a bleached buffalo skull, which lay half hidden in the red grass at his fect.

CHAPTER X.

The Chase.

The summer flamed up into sudden heat, and seared all the grasses, and cut down the timid flowers. Then gradually there came the time of shorter days and cooler nights. Obviously all the earth was preparing for the winter time.

It become not less needful for mankind to take thought for the morrow. Winter on the plains was a season of severity for the early settlers, whose resources alike in fuel and food were not too extensive. Franklin's forethought had provided the houses of himself and Battersleigh with proper fuel, and he was quite ready to listen to Curly when the latter suggested that it might be a good thing for them to follow the usual custom and go out on a hunt for the buffalo herd, in order to supply themselves with their winter's meat.

Franklin, Battersleigh and Curly set out. These three had a wagon and riding horses, and they were accompanied by a second wagon, owned by Sam, the liveryman, who took with him Curly's mozo, the giant Mexican, Juan. The latter drove the team, a task which Curly scornfully refused when it was offered him, his cowboy creed rating any conveyance other than the saddle as far beneath his station.

At night they slept beneath the stars, uncovered by any tent, and saluted constantly by the whining coyotes, whose vocalization was betimes broken by the hoarser, roaring note of the great gray buffalo wolf. At morn they awoke to an air surcharged with some keen elixir which gave delight in sense of living. All around lay a new world, a wild world, a virgin sphere not yet acquaint with man.

Early on the morning of the fourth day of their journey the travelers noted that the plain began to rise and sink in longer waves. Presently they found themselves approaching a of sand. For many miles they travelin silence, intent upon what might be ahead, so that when there came an exclamation from the half-witted Mexican, whose stolld silence under most circumstances had become a proverb among them, each face was at once turned toward him.

"Eh, what's that, Juan?" said Curly, "Say, boys, he says we're about out of the sand hills. Prairie pretty soon

now, he says," (To be continued.)

THE "LITTLE FATHER'S" WORK. Youngster's Tender Solicitude for His Baby Brother.

"You see and hear a lot about 'child mothers' in the tenement house districts," said a gas collector yesterday, "but nobody seems to notice the 'child fathers.' There may not be so many of them, but there are some, and they should get due credit.

"I saw one coming down town in a Sixth avenue 'L' car the other day. There was a woman, a foreigner suppose, for she wore no hat-one of those pale, half-fed looking womenwho had with her a fat babe-in-arms and this boy, this 'child father.' He was a black-eyed little chap of nine or ten years, and the interest he took in everything around him was in strong contract to the lifeless look and manner of the woman. Every once in a while he would look to see how the baby was getting along. It was sleeping, and he seemed satisfied. The woman appeared anxious about her station, and with a few words the boy calmed her. Then, before the train got to Bleecker street, it stopped, and she, apparently thinking it was at the station, started to leave her seat. The boy laid his hand on her arm and she sank back. Then, when they came to the station, he spoke to her and they left the car, he seeing that she got out without being jostled. On the platform he put up his hands, took the baby and started away, the pale woman following.

"If you ever saw any 'child mother' more solicitous for a baby and a woman than that boy was, I'd like to know it.-New York Press.

It's as difficult to convince a stubborn man as it is to fatten a wind mill by running corn through it.

Illinois News

ALL ON ACCOUNT OF BOY'S SLED | YOUNG JANITOR DIES OF BURNS | ISSUE BONDS TO IMPRO

and Arrests Follow.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Fee of East St. Louis were arrested at the instance of William Adlesberger, who charges them with disturbing the peace. It is claimed that the trouble grew out of the kindness of one of the Fee children, who loaned his new sled to Ed Anderson, a neighbor. Later Anderson went to a coal yard, where Adlesberger is said to have an interest, and began to pick up coal. The lad says that Adlesberger broke the sled because he had several chunks of coal on it. Mr. and Mrs. Fee went into a quarrel arose. The Fees eay they will have Adlesberger arrested on charge of malicious destruction of property.

BURNS MORTGAGE.

After working with might and main for a long time to secure the necessary funds to clear his church of gebt, Rev. Dr. D. C. Milner of Joliet saw the mortgage and other paper evidences of the debt go up in a flash of flame set by an electric spark. Centra; Presbyterian church was celebrating the jubilee of its sixtleth year and a



REV. DR. D C MILNER.

large congregation was present when Dr. Milner, the pastor, pressed a button and an electric current illuminated a large cross above the altar, the church being otherwise in darkness. He pressed another button and a second current produced the spark that set the evidences of debt on fire. The burned papers represented total debt of \$65,000 that has been paid.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTS

Chooses Officers and Decides to Meet

Next at Springfield Next Year. Springfield was chosen for the next meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society and the following officers elected: President, Dr. J. F. Snyder, Virginia; first vice president, Paul Selby, Chicago: second vice president, William Vocke, Chicago; third vice president, J. A. French, Springfield directors, E. C. Sparks, E. J. James and George McConnell, Chicago; David McCullogh, Peoria; J. H. Burnham, Bloomington: M. H. Chamberlain, Lebanon; Alfred Orendorff, Jessie Palmer Webber and George W. Black, Springfield; Prof. George Smith, Carbondale; Rev. C. Eschman, Prairie du Roche; W. H. Collins, Quincy; J. O. Cunningham, E. B. Green, Urbana. One directorship was left vacant. The directors will appoint the secretary-treasurer.

Agrees to Leave Town.

Because he was declared a public nuisance John McElroy, alias "Scotch Jack," was fined \$100 and costs in Alton and given the alternative of serving a 200 days' sentence in the county jail or leaving the city permanently. He chose the latter and was allowed to go. McElroy is said to have had more fights than any other man in Madison county, and that he never would admit being vanquished.

Fall Into Shaft Kills Miner. Samuel Willis, at the new Harrisburg Big Muddy coal mine, was killed by falling into the shaft, a distance of 50 feet. He was bringing up a ladder out of the shaft, when it caught against the side of the shaft and tipped the bucket in which he was ascending, and he fell out on his head He died three hours afterwards. He was 35 years of age, unmarried and his home was in Carbondale.

Thousands for Charity. Thousands of dollars for charity will be raised by the charity ball to be fured. given at the new armory at Springfield, Feb. 10, under the auspices of the Sangamo club. Interest is being taken in the event all over the state and it bids fair to be the greatest so-

Under Hypnotic Control.

cial function ever held in central II-

J. J. Lapping, who says that he is a railway conductor out of Denver, Colo., alleges that he was irresistibly attracted to Bloomington by the hypnotic powers of a woman of that city to whom he is distantly related and who is a professional mind reader. He claims to be receiving telepathic messages constantly from her and that his system is in a state of collapse as a struction Alfred Bayliss was structed of her mysterious control-ever a street car at Springfield. He him. His case is puzzling the local physicians, but they think he same.

Neighbors Quarrel at East St. Louis | Hot Air Heat Explodes and Set Fire to His Clott.ing.

Donald Miller, aged 15, son of William J Miller of St. Clair county and director of the Turkey Hill grange and school, was herribly burned in the fire which destroyed the grange hall, four miles south of Believille. Young Miller was custodian of the ball and a student of the school. The structure was a two-story frame, the first floor being used by the school and second story for lodge rooms. Miller made a fire in the school room and about 9 o'clock had gone upstairs into the ball proper, when the teacher, Miss the yards to see about the matter and Anna Haenber, and the pupils were startled by a terrific explosion. When they reached the yard they saw young Miller rushing from the hallway The proposed ditch will be 90 1 wrapped in flames. The lad threw himself into the deep snow in an effort | through five miles in Hamilton tow to extinguish the flames which enveloped him, and Miss Hacuber rushed | township. This will benefit to his aid and succeeded in tearing the burning clothing from his body. The building had taken fire and farmers of the vicinity hurried to the scene, and carried young Miller to the residence of his parents, about half a mile distant. Miss Haeuber's burns were painful, but not serious. During a period of consciousness the Miller boy stated that he was replenishing the stove in the lodge hall, when the hot-air heater exploded. The building and contents were a total loss. There was \$1,200 insurance on the hall and \$200 on the furniture.

NEGRESS DIES AT AGE OF 124

Mary Ann Pell, Once Servant of

Washington, Expires. Mary Ann Bell, a negrees, died at Champaign at the age of 124 years. She had records in her possession, yellow and rotten with age, that prove her to have been born in 1780. She first saw the light of day near Washington, D. C., her parents baving been brought to this country from Africa and sold as slaves to Gen. Booker, a warm personal friend of George Washington. She claims her first master often loaned her to Washington and that she served in the Mount Vernon mansion for several years. She was the mother of seven children, the youngest of whom is 70 years old. Her husband died twentyeight years ago and claimed to be over a century old.

DENIES APPOINTMENT.

Hon, W. J. Albertson of Pekin denies the statement that he has been appointed sergeant-at-arms at the na-



U.S ALBERTOON

tional Republican convention at Chicago. He says the statement was not authorized by him and that there is no truth in it.

Historical Society.

Preliminary steps have been taken to organize the Southern Illinois historical society, with headquarters in Carbondale, where is situated the only state school in the section. A temporary organization has been effected with Prof. S. E. Harwood as chairman and Prof. George W. Smith as secretary. A committee consisting of Sam T. Brush, Judge A. S. Caldwell and Samuel Smith, has been named to formulate a constitution and by-laws and extend the society's usefulness. A permanent organization will be perfected in Carbondale during February.

Freight Train Goes Into Ditch. A northbound freight on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois left the track three miles north of Marion and two engines and fourteen cars went into the ditch. After leaving the track the train ran a short distance on the ties, which gave warning to the crew. and all escaped, though somewhat in-

Bank Deposits Increase.

In a little over sixty days the deposits of the three national banks of Cairo have increased \$69,085.46. The statements published show the total deposits to be \$1,492,051.30.

Church Burns at Griggsville.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Griggsville was totally destroyed by fire. It was erected in 1884 at a cost of \$13,000. Insurance, \$4,000, carried in the Methodist Church Insurance company of Chicago.

Supt. Baylles Is Hurt. State Superintendent of Public struction Alfred Bayliss was struck knocked down, but not seriou

specially selected for

Drainage Clatrict No. 1 V Drainage district No. 1 of Har township, in Lee county, on man township, in Whiteside organized for the purposa of 'eping Green river, bas is to the amount of \$30,000 to the improvements. These bo dated Jan. 1, 1904, and will at the rate of \$15,000 nanually, ning Jan. 1, 1905. The bonds are sued in the denomination of and are registered to the office of state auditor. They are payable the state treasurer at 4% per This immense bond issue is for purpose of straightening Green ? for a distance of about nine mil wide and 12 feet deep, and will ship and four miles in Hahnan acres of rich farming land, worth o an average, about \$65 an acre, tal valuation of about \$647,000. Wo will begin as soon as weather mits. This is the biggest drain improvement ever undertaken in that part of the state.

HEADS TRACT PRESS.

Miss Mary Davidson, who was re cently elected president of the Military Tract Press Association, is the first woman member of the organization to hold that office. She is the daughter



MUSS MADY DAVIDOON

of the late J. M. Davidson, a pionest newspaper man, and she has had several years' experience in journalistic work. Miss Davidson is at present on the staff of the Republican of Care thage.

RAILROADS ARE BOOMING SALES

Extensive Improvements Being Made at That Point by Two Lines. As soon as the weather will permit. work will be commenced on the extensive improvements to be made at Salem by the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern and the Illinois Southern Railroad Company. Some weeks ago the latter company purchased a large tract of land near Salem for a reservoir. When this is completed a system of mains will be laid to the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern de pot and water cranes will be placed at each end of the station. The Ulino Southern will build a short spur to connect with the Baltimore and Ohio and a joint agency will be established. The station now used by the Southern will be removed to the south of the Baltimore and Ohio tracks and the two roads will use it for warehouse purposes. The Southern will size erect a large concrete house for the

Organize County of Y. M. C. A. The following have been elected members of a committee to promote the organization of a Christian county Y. M. C. A .: S. A. Shafer, L. L. Long, E. C. Watson and Samuel Cushing, Assumption; E. C. Dey, C. E. Tyler and R. Armstrong, Morrisonville: William Eaton, Edinburg; B. F. Winters, Stonington; William Dalbey, Samuel Anderson, O. B. Britton, W. E. Andrews, Luther Chestnut and L. N. Richardson, Taylorville.

lcomotives that remain at Salem over

night. The Baltimore and Ohio will

shortly install a night operator at its

station and Salem will again be made

a regular stop for all trains.

After Democratic Convention. Springfield democrats are working to influence the Democratic state con tral committee to locate the democrat ic state convention in the capital. delegation of leading democrate has been selected to attend the state cen tral committee meeting in Chicag and work in behalf of Springfield. is believed the Democratic state on vention will be held at Springfiel shortly after the republican conven

tion, May 12. Osteopaths Organize. An organization has been effect in Carbondale of the onteopathi tors of the Ninth district of which comprises the sixteen counties. The following of elected for the year: 1 D. Norris of Marion; 5 Alfred Brimb