THE GIRL HALFWAY HOUSE

BY B. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY Coppelebted, 1808, by D. Appleton & Company, New York

CHAPTER XIII.—Continued.

precipitated at any moment.

roup of three persons, on whom there | Captain Franklin, all of ye? and slender man, who carried him- McDermott, and me arm-so." self with that ease which, itself unconscious, causes self-consciousness in those still some generations back of ment. The violins wailed in

wide, dark eyes, which now opened the slack shoulders straightened shock. Lastly, with head up and eyes sees some new thing, there came a young woman, whose presence was such as had never yet been seen in the hotel at Ellisville.

by no welcoming hand, ushered to no long, half-lit room in the full sense of ward situation. Yet they did not shuffle or cough, or talk one with another, or smile in anguish, as had others who thus faced the same ordeal. The three walked slowly, calmly, deliberately down into what must have seen one of the most singular scenes atherto witnessed in their lives. As they reached the head of the social rank, where sat Mrs. McDermott, the breath. wife of the section boss and arbiter elegantiarum for all Ellisville, the gentleman bowed and spoke some few front. It was Hank Peterson, who words, though obviously to a total | led her forth, and who, after the ocstranger—a very stiff and suspicious casion was over, wished he had not

of the room. "I'm pleased to meet ye The hours grew older. At the head all this evenin'. Perhaps ye all know of the hall the musicians manifested Battersleigh, and I hope ye'll all meet more signs of their inexorable purpose. me friend Captain Franklin, at me A sad protesting squeal came from the side. We claim the inthroduction of accordion. The violins mouned, but this roof, me good friends, and we welwere held firm. The worst might be come everybody to the first dance a Ellisville. Ladies, yer very dutiful But again there was a transfer of servant! It's well ye're lookin', Mrs. the general attention toward the upper | McDermott; and Nora, gyurl, sure end of the hall. The door once more | ye're charmin' the night. Kittle, dark grened, and there appeared a little in', how do ye do? Do ye remember was fixed a regard so steadfast and up, ye naygurs—that's right. Now, so silent that it might well have been | thin, all hands, choose yer partners seen that they were strangers to all fer the gr-rand march, sure, with present. Of the three, one was a tall Jerry's permission. Thank ye, Mrs.

The sheepish figures of the musicians now leaned together for a mothe Upon the arm of this gentleman | search for the accord, the assistant inwas a lady, also tall, thin, pale, with strument less tentative. All at once with surprise that was more than half firm J, confidently, and then, their feet beating in unison upon the floor, their also wide, like those of a stag which faces set, stern and relentless, the three musicians fell to the work and reeled off the opening bars.

A sigh went up from the assembly. There was a general shuffling of shoes. Astonished, as they might have been a wide rustling of calico. Then, slowby the spectacle before them, greeted ly, as though going to his doom, Curly arose from out the long line of the unconvenient seat, these three faced the happy upon his side of the room. H crossed the intervening space, hi what might have been called an awk- limbs below the knees curiously af fected, jerking his feet into half time with the tune. He bowed so low before the littlest waiter girl that his neck scarf fell forward from his ches and hung before him like a shield "May I hev the honor, Miss Kitty?" he choked out; and as the littlest waiter girl rose and took his arm with a vas air of unconcern, Curly drew a long

In his seat Sam writhed, but could not rise. Nora looked straight in



"Ned, me boy, Colonel ----'

reply. The ladies bowed to the wife of the section boss and to the others as they came in turn. Then the three passed on a few seats apart from and side of the house.

the unhappiness and suspense could have endured but little longer. Again of the horses. the accordion protested and the fiddle wept. The cornet uttered a faint note of woe. Yet once more there was a pause in this time of joy.

Again the door was pushed open, not timidly, but flung boldly back. There stood two figures at the head of the hall and in the place of greatest light. Of these, one was tall and very thin, but upright as a shaft of pine. He was clad in dark garments; thus much might be said. His waistcoat sat high and close. At wrist and neck there showed a touch of white, and a bit of white appeared protruding at the bosom of his cost. His tread was supple and easy as that of a boy of twenty. "Ned, me boy," he whispered to his companion as they entered, "I'm feelin' fine the night; and as for yerself, ye're fit for the court o' St. James at a diplomats' ball."

of the compliment. Dressed in the full | these three, and needed but a glance uniform of a captain, he looked the to satisfy himself of their identity. picture of the young army officer of the United States. Simply, easily, much as had the little group that immediately preceded himself and friend. Franklin passed on up into the hall, between the batteries which lined the taken, you will be from below, toward walls.

Any emergency brings forward its own remedy. The times produce the man, each war bringing forth its own generals, its heroes, its solvers of great problems. None had chosen Battersleigh to the leadership. There had friend Captain Franklin, Captain Ned been no election for master of ceremonies, nor had Battersleigh yet had time to fully realize how desperate was nel-ye'll pardon me not knowin' the this strait in which these folk had name? fallen. It appeared to him merely that, himself having arrived, there was naught else to cause delay. At the center of the room he stopped, near by the head of the stern column of womanhood which held the position on the right as one entered the hall. Here Battersleigh paused, making a deep and sweeping bow, and uttered the

stranger, who was too startled to | done so, for his wife sat till the last upon the row. Seeing this awful thing happen, seeing the hand of Nora laid upon another's arm. Sam sat up as one deeply smitten with a hurt. Then, beyond the other occupants of that | silently, unobserved in the confusion, he stole away from the fateful scene There was now much tension, and and betook himself to his stable, where he fell violently to currying one

"Oh, kick!" he exclaimed, getting speech in these surroundings. "Kick! deserve it. Of all the low-down, d-n cowards that ever was borned sure am the worst! But the gall of that feller Peterson! An' him a married man!"

When Sam left the ballroom there remained no person who was able to claim acquaintance with the little group who now sat under the shadow of the awinging lamp at the lower end of the hall, and farthest from the door. The "grand march" was over, and Battersleigh was again walking along the lines in company with his friend Franklin, before either could have been said to have noticed fully these strangers, whom no one seemed to know, and who sat quite apart and unengaged. Battersleigh, master of ceremonies by natural right, and com-Franklin, indeed, deserved somewhat | fortable gentleman at heart, spied out

"Sir," said Battersleigh, approaching and bowing as he addressed the stranger, "I shall make bold to introjuce mese!f-Battersleigh of Ellisville, sir, at your service. If I am not misthe next town. I bid ye a very good welcome, and we shall all hope to see ye often, sir. We're none too many here yet, and a gintleman and his family are always welcome among gin tlemen. Allow me, sir, to presint me Franklin of the -th, Illinois in the late unplisantness-Ned, me boy, Colo-

"My name is Buford, sir," said the other as he rose. "I am very glad to see you gentlemen, Colonel Battersleigh, Captain Franklin. I was so unlucky as to be of the Kentucky troops, sir, in the same unpleasantness. want to introduce my wife, gentlemen, and my niece, Miss Beauchamp."

Franklin really lost a part of what first open speech which had been the speaker was saying. He was gas beard that evening. In the speaker was saying. He was gas ing at this form half hidden in the speaker was saying. He was gas ing at this form half hidden in the speaker was saying. les and gintlemen," he said in shadow, a figure with hands droom nepishable at all parts | with face upturned and just on

strongly about the heavy hair. Then came upon him at that moment, as with a flood-tide of memory, all the vague long which restlessness, the incertitude of life which had harried him before he had come to this far land, whose swift activity had helped him to forget. Yet even here he had been unsettled, unhappy. He had missed, he had lacked—he knew not

The young woman rose, and stood out a pace or two from the shadows. She turned her face toward Franklin. He felt her gaze take in the uniform of blue, felt the stroke of mental dislike for the uniform—a dislike which he knew existed, but which he could not fathom. With a strange, halfshivering gesture the girl advanced half a step and laid her head almost upon the shoulder of the elder woman, standing thus for one moment, the arms of the two unconsciously entwined, as is sometimes the way with women. Franklin approached rudeness as he looked at this attitude of the two, still puzzling, still seeking to solve this troubling problem of the

There came a shift in the music. The air swept from the merry tune into the minor from which the negro is never musically free. Then in a flash Franklin saw it all. He saw the picture. His heart stopped!

This music, it was the wall trumpets! These steps, measured, were those of marching men. These sounds, high, commingling, they were the voices of a day gone swiftly by. These two, this one—this picture—it was not here, but upon the field of wheat and flowers that he saw it now again—that picture of grief so infinitely sad.

Franklin saw, and as he gazed eager, half advancing, indecision and irresolution dropped from him forever Resolved from out the shadows, wherein it had never in his most intimate self-searching taken any actual form, he saw the image of that unformulated dream which had haunted his subconsciousness so long, and which was now to haunt him openly and forever,

The morning after the first official ball in Ellisville dawned upon another

Ellisville, after the first ball, was by all the rules of the Plains admittedly a town. A sun had set, and a sun had arisen. It was another day.

To Edward Franklin the tawdry he tel parlor on the morning after the ball was no mere four-square habitation, but a chamber of the stars. Before him, radiant, was that which he had vaguely sought. This other half of himself, with feet running far to find the missing friend, had sought him out through all the years, through all the miles, through all the spheres! This was fate, and at this thought his heart glowed, his eyes shone, his very stature seemed to increase. He wist not of Nature and her ways of attraction. He only knew that here was that Other whose hand, pathetically sought, he had hitherto missed in the darkness of the foregone days. Now, thought he, it was all happily concluded, here in this brilliant chamber of delight, this irradiant abode, this noble hall bedecked with gems and silks and stars and all the warp and woof of his many, many days of dreamsi

Mr. and Mrs. Buford had for the time excused themselves by reason of Mrs. Buford's weariness, and after the easy ways of that time and place the young people found themselves alone Thus it was that Mary Ellen, with a temporary feeling of helplessness. found herself face to face with the very man whom she at that time cared least to see.

(To be continued.)

Tricks of the Types. A friend met Whitelaw Reid, the

veteran editor of the New York Tribune, the other day and said to him: "I see you are on the advisory board of Mr. Pulitzer's new college of journalism at Columbia university. De you expect to put an end to the typo-

graphical error?"

"The most we can hope to do," re plied Mr. Reid, "is to mitigate its horhors. You can't abolish the typographical error any more than you can original sin. I remember when the prince of Wales visited this country of writing an editorial on the subject. I was young and ambitious, and thought I said some clever things. It began: "The prince of Wales is making captivating speeches.' The next morning I picked up the paper to enjoy reading it in print. I turned to the editorial page, and this met my gaze: 'The price of Nails is making carpenters swear." - Philadelphia Post.

Couldn't Forget His Pet Theme.

Down in Virginia, says Thomas Nelson Page, there was an old darky preacher who had preached about infant baptism morning and night until his congregation couldn't stand it any longer. They told him to preach something else or they'd have to find some one who would. He promised, and the next Junday announced his text, "Adam, where art thou?"

"Dis, bredern, can be divided into fouh heads," began the dominie. "First, every man is somewhar. Secondly, most men am where they ain't got no bus'ness to be. Thirdly, you'd better look out or you'll be gittin' there you'self. Fo'thly, infant baptism. Now, bredern, I guess we might's well pass by the fust three heads and come immed't'ly to the fo'th, infant baptism."

Commercial Museums.

The Russian government will tablish permanent commercial

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SPECIAL CORRES THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Money on Their Babe. John Williams, a negro laborer living at East St. Louis, killed his wife, Annie Williams, by stabbing her sev eral times with a caseknife. Quarrels between the couple have been frequent. These invariably resulted from Williams' claims that his wife was spending too much money on their month-old baby. Williams fled to St. Louis to avoid arrest for beating his wife. He returned to his home and found his wife in the kitchen with the baby in her arms. Without the least warning he sprang at her with the knife, slashing her across the face. Williams followed her as she ran out of the house, and just as she reached the sidewalk he drove the knife into her back. A crowd of negroes who witnessed the assault pursued Williams into the Illinois Central railroad yards, where they were joined in a few min-

Accuses Her of Spending Too Much

Explosion Kills Miner.

utes by Police Officers Neville, Hag-

gerty and Fitz. Williams was cap-

tured two miles north of Cahokia and

returned to the jail in East St. Louis.

E. W. Edwards, better known "Texas" Edwards, a miner, was killed by the premature explosion of powder in a room in the Borders' mine, one mile east of Marisss. The accident happened just at the close of the day's work, when the miners were preparing to leave the mine. Edwards had prepared a final shot so as to have coal down ready for loading into the pit cars next morning. The "squib" for some reason had failed to set off the powder, and he returned to the room to relight the fuse, when there was an explosion. A large piece of coal struck Edwards in the temple and killed him instantly.

Bartenders Elect Officers.

The state hotel employes and bartenders' convention closed at Peoria with the election of the following officers: President, George Peterson, Peoria; first vice president, J. Sheehan, Springfield; second vice president, C. F. Kieling; third vice president, A. A. Fonda, Rockford; secretary-treasurer, E. F. Brady, Kewanee; state directors, E. W. Wigand, Aurora; Richard Jones, Cairo: M. P. Fitzgerald, Mattoon; J. B. Bailey, Canton, and Dave Siegfried, Belleville.

Prizes for Corn. At the Illinois state farmers' institute at Decatur the first prize for white corn was awarded to Sutton Bros. of Macon county; second, Chester Roberts of Douglas county; third, George Dunset of Morgan county; fourth. A. A. Hill of Maco county; firth Robert Styan of Champaign county. Yellow corn, first prize, W. E. Johnson of Menard county. White corn, southern division, first prize, E. S. Helms, St. Clair county.

Hold Alleged Swindler.

Federal authorities at Springfield held S. C. Sprague for the grand jury in the sum of \$1,000, charged with using the mails to defraud. Sprague it is alleged, was agent of an accident insurance company and obtained the sum of \$500 one or more times by securing applications for insurance which were fictitious. It is alleged that he would report accidents, fill out false affidavits and thus secure the money from the company.

Arbitration Committee.

Mesars, Charles Ridgely, L. H Miner and A. L. Converse have been appointed by the Springfield Business Men's association as a committee on international arbitration in connection with the work of the international arbitration conference, of which Hon. John Foster of Washington, D. C., is

Grief Drives Veteran Insane.

Dennia Driscoll, an aged resident of Alten, and an old soldier, became viclently insane through grieving over the death of his wife. Getting an old musket he carried during the war, he marched through the house giving commands to himself and doing much damage to the house.

Fireman Sues Traction Company. John Leslie McDaniels of Springfield has brought suit against the city railway company for \$5,000 damages for injuries received by being knocked off a hose cart by a street car. Mc Daniels is a member of the fire department and was seriously injured when going to a fire.

Seeks Reparation.

Eugene Flynn of Taylorville has commenced suit for \$5,000 damages in the Christian county Circuit court against J. W. Bowdich and Nellie Bowdich, alleging defamation of charac-

Gets Democratic Convention. The Tazewell county Democratic convention will be held in Pekin Tuesday, April 19. Delegates to the state, congressional and senatorial. convention will be selected and candidates for county officers nominated.

Completes Phone Lines The Rixman Telephone irvington line to A

Vein Near Fruit Station is Nearly Six | Deputy Feet Thick. The drillers, prospecting for

near Fruit station, in Madison county, on the line of the Clover Leaf railroad, have struck coal in paying quantity. A vein of five feet eight inches in thickness, of excellent quality and comparatively free of slate, was encountered at a depth of 215 feet. The drillings have been turned over to an expert for examination. The field is located in a good neighborhood and everything is favorable for a paying investment.

Grants Phone Franchise. A franchise was granted by the board of highway commissioners a Carbondale to the Farmers' League and Community Telephone company to operate and maintain a telephone system on the highways of the township. The city council will be asked at their next regular meeting to grant permission for the company to enter the city. The association contemplates a phone in every home in the township, and already has several miles in successful operation, which costs less than \$1 per month to operate.

Epidemio of the Grip. An epidemic of the grip, complicated in a number with pneumonia, is prevalent in Casey and vicinity. Fully three fourths of the people have been or are now afflicted with the ailment The medical fraternity is constantly called upon, and one physician reports having ministered to sixty patients in one day.

Boring for Coal.

Chicago parties have two drilling outfits at work in the northern parts of this county prospecting for coal. They have already made a number of borings and secured thousands acres of coal options, but keep the findings carefully secret. It is known, however, that rich veins of coal were found at a depth of 450 feet at Shattue.

Death of Wealthy Woman.

Mrs. Polly Ann Trowser died Charleston. She was 87 year old and was the wealthiest woman in eastern Illinois, owning much land and real estate in Coles and adjoining counties, and a controlling interest in the First National bank of Charleston. She was a native of Indiana, coming to Illinois with her parents in 1828.

Successful Revival.

The special revival services being conducted by the evangelists, Hart and Magann of St. Louis, at the First M. E. church at Mount Vernon, Rev. J. A. Taylor, pastor, have resulted in eighty-three conversions and fifty accessions to the church.

Boy Hunter is Shet.

Willie Elwell of Alton was shot by Homer Clark by the accidental discharge of a cat rifle. The boys were hunting. The bullet struck Elweil in the stomach, but his clothing pre vented it penetrating far. Both boys are 15 years of age.

Pastor Accepta Call. The congregation of the Baptist church at Centralia has extended a call to Rev. Bronson of Belleville to become the regular pastor, and the same has been accepted. The new pastor will enter on his regular duties on Sunday, March 6.

Sues for \$10,000.

Thomas R. Davis of Taylorville has commenced suit in the United States district court against the Baltimore & Ohio Railway company for \$10,000 on account of the loss of his right hand, which was mashed off while he was making a coupling.

Cute Throat and Takes Laudanum. Joseph Smith, an old and wellknown citizen of Carlinville, attempted suicide by attempting to cut his throat. An incision an inch long was made, He also took laudanum. The attempt was a failure. He has been sick for

Mount Vernon's Population. According to the school taken by Ray W. Hitchcock, Mount Vernon's population is \$,357. The number of persons between the ages of 6 and 21 is 2,430. Last year there were 1,991, or 439 less than this year.

Jury Exonerates Slayer.

Lawrence Slaughter, who shot and killed Daniel Wright in Upper Alton. was immediately given his freedom after the jury impaneled by Deputy Coroner Streeper exonerated him.

Sue Normal School Board. A suit for \$600,000 has been filed against the public school board of dolph county, a merchant, Normal to collect sums alleged to have been paid for salaries by the Springfield a petition to merger of the state normal university a bankrupt. He gives his and public schools since the amalga- | \$2,572 and his as mation was adopted three years ago.

ton, against charging forge the last grand i tered a plea of guilty county Circuit c an indeterminate s itentiary at Chester. counts were noile I state's attorney. Pay ly chief deputy con Clair county, which B for over three years. tigating committee, a amine the books of the urer's office, discovered the and it was on their finds timony that he was indicted Payton was first arrested he proclaimed his innocence, at that he was suffering for the of others. When interviewed jail he denied that others were cated in the affair, His a amounts to over \$1,500, but only ers a period of three months:

Farmers Want Field Dairy Works The state farmers' institute at Decatur has closed. The resolution committee made its report, indomi field dairy work in every county same to be in the hands of Dall Gi er, opposing Sunday opening of t state fair, advocating the high is of instruction in the country as recommending a school of corres dence in connection with the of agriculture and for the better ifications of teachers in the school

Tries to Walk to Poorhou Miss Anna Rouse of Bunker Hill as rived in Alton on her way to the Me coupin county poorhouse. Miss Rous was working for a family in the con try near Bunker Hill and becoming diseatisfied with her home, she dete mined to go to the poorhouse. started to walk and covered the thirts miles by wagon road from Bunker Hil to Alton, where she was assisted by the Alton authorities and given transportation to Carlinville.

Big Coal Land Mortgage.

A mortgage for \$450,000, the largest ever filed in Franklin county on prop erty within the county, was read recently. It was from the Wester Big Muddy Coal Company of Newari N. J., to the imperial Trust com of New York. The mortgage is taken on coal land options which expire April 80. It is presumed that the lands will be purchased and develope at once.

Swan Prizes for Oratory. The seventeenth annual contest in oratory for the Swan prizes was held at Lombard college, Galesburg, The first prize was awarded Charles I Blont of Babylon, with an oration of William Lloyd Garrison, and the see ond to Stanley N. Manning of Chicago with an oration on "Out of the Hou of Bondage."

The Busch Glass Works comp Belleville, has announced that a er glass tank and furnace would be opened as soon as blowery and work men are obtained. This will be the third week in operation at the glas works, and will give employment an additional 200 men and boys.

Vote for High School. The voters of Hillsboro have de ed that a new high sellicof by shall be erected by the board of adcation. An election has been c for the purpose of selecting a site ! the new building and for authoris a bond issue of \$17,000 to provide building fund.

Employe to Interest. M. E. Post, an employe in the M ern fron works at Quincy, had I right arm and his head se incernted by falling on an wheel.

Resoball at Waterloo. The Waterloo Baseball and has elected Albert Gaven, Tony R. Albert Pinkel and Killen Courses rectors for the coming seeses.

Home From Philippines. Frank Bighelman and Adam Wir of Waterloo, who have served three years in the army in the Phil have returned home.

Wine W. C. T. U. Prine Rarl Winters of Taylorville been awarded second price in an a contest held by the W. C. T. D. a Springfield.

Postal Company Opens Offic The Postal Telegraph company h decided to open a branch office in Ta

Asks to Be Adjudged Ban Lewis D. Jones of Ci the United States d