

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

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

CHAPTER XIII.—Continued.

The hours grow older. At the head of the hall the musicians manifested more signs of their inexorable purpose.

But again there was a transfer of the general attention toward the upper end of the hall. The door once more opened, and there appeared a little group of three persons, on whom there was fixed a regard so steadfast and so silent that it might well have been seen that they were strangers to all present.

astounded, as they might have been by the spectacle before them, greeted by no welcoming hand, ushered to no convenient seat, these three faced the long, half-lit room in the full sense of what might have been called an awkward situation.



"Ned, me boy, Colonel"

stranger, who was too startled to reply. The ladies bowed to the wife of the section boss and to the others as they came in turn.

There was now much tension, and the unhappiness and suspense could have endured but little longer. Again the accordion protested and the fiddle wept.

Again the door was pushed open, not timidly, but swung boldly back. There stood two figures at the head of the hall and in the place of greatest light.

Franklin, indeed, deserved somewhat of the compliment. Dressed in the full uniform of a captain, he looked the picture of the young army officer of the United States.

Any emergency brings forward its own remedy. The times produce the man, each war bringing forth its own general, its heroes, its solvers of great problems.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said in a voice easily distinguishable at all parts

of the room. "I'm pleased to meet ye all this evenin'. Perhaps ye all know Battersleigh, and I hope ye'll all meet me friend Captain Franklin, at me side.

The sheepish figures of the musicians now leaned together for a moment. The violins wailed in sad search for the accord, the assistant instrument less tentative.

A sigh went up from the assembly. There was a general shuffling of shoes, a wide rustling of calico. Then, slowly, as though going to his doom, Curly arose from out the long line of the unhappy upon his side of the room.

In his seat Sam writhed, but could not rise. Nora looked straight in front. It was Hank Peterson, who led her forth, and who, after the occasion was over, wished he had not

lately by one variant of the old which left the woman's shoes pined strongly about the heavy hair. There came upon him at that moment, as with a flood-tide of memory, all the vague longings, the 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.

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.

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.

This music, it was the wall of trumpets! These steps, ordered, measured, were those of marching men. These sounds, high, comingling, they were the voices of a day gone swiftly by.

Franklin saw, and as he gazed, eager, half advancing, indecision and irresolution dropped from him forever. Resolved from out the shadows, where in 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 Ellenville dawned upon another world.

Ellenville, 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 hotel 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!

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.

(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."

"The most we can hope to do," replied Mr. Reid, "is to mitigate its horrors. 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.

Couldn't Forget His Pet Thema. Down in Virginia, says Thomas Nelson Page, there was an old dandy preacher who had preached about infant baptism morning and night until his congregation couldn't stand it any longer.

"Dis, brethern, can be divided into four heads," began the dominie. "First, every man is somewhar. Secondly, most men am where they ain't got no business to be. Thirdly, you'd better look out or you'll be gittin' there yourself. Fourthly, infant baptism. Now, brethern, I guess we might's well pass by the first three heads and come immedi'tly to the fo'th, infant baptism."

Commercial Museum. The Russian government will establish permanent commercial museum in Paris.

ILLINOIS NEWS

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

NEGRO STABS WIFE TO DEATH.

Accuses Her of Spending Too Much Money on Their Babe.

John Williams, a negro laborer living at East St. Louis, killed his wife, Annie Williams, by stabbing her several times with a case-knife. 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.

RICH COAL STRIKE IN MADISON

Vein Near Fruit Station is Nearly Six Feet Thick.

The drillers, prospecting for coal 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 125 feet.

Grants Phone Franchise.

A franchise was granted by the board of highway commissioners at Carbondale to the Farmers' League and Community Telephone company, to operate and maintain a telephone system on the highways of the township.

Epidemic of the Grip.

An epidemic of the grip, complicated in a number of cases with pneumonia, is prevalent in Casey and vicinity. Fully three-fourths of the people have been or are now afflicted with the ailment.

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 of acres of coal options, but keep the findings carefully secret.

Death of Wealthy Woman.

Mrs. Polly Ann Trower died at 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.

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 Shot.

Willie Elwell of Alton was shot by Homer Clark by the accidental discharge of a cat rifle. The boys were hunting. The bullet struck Elwell in the stomach, but his clothing prevented it penetrating far.

Pastor Accepts 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.

Goes 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.

Cuts Throat and Takes Laudanum.

Joseph Smith, an old and well-known citizen of Centralia, 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 years.

Mount Vernon's Population.

According to the school census taken by Ray W. Hitchcock, Mount Vernon's population is 3,857. 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 Streper exonerated him.

Goes Normal School Board.

A suit for \$600,000 has been filed against the public school board of Normal to collect sums alleged to have been paid for salaries by the merger of the state normal university and public schools since the amalgamation was adopted three years ago.

PIKE COUNTY PRISON PRISONERS GUILTY

Deputy County Clerk of St. Clair County, Illinois, also known as 'White' Patton, against whom two indictments charging forgery were returned by the last grand jury in St. Clair county, was found guilty by the St. Clair county Circuit court of two indictments returned by the grand jury.

Farmers Want Field Dairy Work.

The state farmers' institute at Decatur has closed. The resolution committee made its report, informing field dairy work in every county, same to be in the hands of Dr. J. J. Glover, opposing Sunday opening of the state fair, advocating the high grade of instruction in the country schools, recommending a school of correspondence in connection with the college of agriculture and for the better qualifications of teachers in the schools.

Tries to Walk to Poorhouse.

Miss Anna Rouss of Bunker Hill arrived in Alton on her way to the St. Louis county poorhouse. Miss Rouss was working for a family in the country near Bunker Hill and, becoming dissatisfied with her home, she determined to go to the poorhouse.

Big Coal Land Mortgage.

A mortgage for \$450,000, the largest ever filed in Franklin county on property within the county, was recorded recently. It was from the Washburn Big Muddy Coal Company of Washburn, N. J., to the Imperial Trust company of New York. The mortgage is taken on coal land options which expire April 30. It is presumed that the lands will be purchased and developed 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 J. Blount of Babylon, with an oration on William Lloyd Garrison, and the second to Stanley N. Manning of Chicago with an oration on "Out of the House of Bondage."

To Open Glass Tank.

The Busch Glass Works company, Belleville, has announced that another glass tank and furnace would be opened as soon as blowers and workmen are obtained. This will be the third week in operation at the glass works, and will give employment to an additional 300 men and boys.

Vote for High School.

The voters of Hillsboro have decided that a new high school building shall be erected by the board of education. An election has been called for the purpose of selecting a site for the new building and for authorizing a bond issue of \$17,500 to provide a building fund.

Employer is Injured.

M. E. Post, an employe in the Mack era iron works at Quincy, had his right arm and his head severely lacerated by falling on an empty wheel.

Baseball at Waterville.

The Waterloo Baseball Association has elected Albert Davis, Tony Koch, Albert Finkel and Eliza Coates directors for the coming season.

Home from Philadelphia.

Frank Mahelam and Adam Webb, of Waterloo, who have served three years in the army in the Philippines, have returned home.

Wins W. C. T. U. Prize.

Earl Winters of Taylorville has been awarded second prize in an essay contest held by the W. C. T. U. of Springfield.

Postal Company Opens Office.

The Postal Telegraph company has decided to open a branch office in Taylorville.

Asks to Be Adjudged Bankrupt.

Lewis D. Jones of Coatesville, Randolph county, a merchant, has filed in the United States district court at Springfield a petition to be adjudged a bankrupt. He gives his liabilities as \$2,572 and his assets as \$300.

Win W. C. T. U. Prize.

In the contest for prizes... offered by the W. C. T. U. of...