THE GIRL AT THE HOUSE HALFWAY

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

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CHAPTER XXI.—Continued.

"There must be some motive shown for the supposition of such an act as murder. What motive can be shown here? Certainly not that of robbery. The horse of the missing man came back alone, its lariat dragging, as we shall prove. It had not been ridden since the lariat was broken. You all know, as we shall prove, that this man Juan was never known to ride a horse. We shall prove that he walked sixty miles, to the very spot where the horse had been tied, and that he secred to touch a horse on his whole journey. He wanted no horse. He stole no horse. That was no motive.

"To be subject to the law, as you very well know, a man must be morally responsible. He must know right and wrong. I shall show to you that when this man was a child he was struck a severe blow upon the head and that since that time he has never been of sound mind, his brain never recovering from that shock, a blow which actually broke in a portion of his skull. Since that time he has had recurrent times of violent insanity, with alternating spells of what seems a semi-idiocy. This man's mind never grew. In some ways his animal senses are keen to a remarkable degree, but of reason he has little or none. He can not tell you why he does thus or so. This I shall prove to you.

"I ask you, gentlemen of the jury, you who hold this man's life in your hands, are you going to hang a man for murder when it is not shown a murder has been done? And would you hang a man who is more ignorant than a child of right or wrong? Is that fair play? Gentlemen, we are all here together, and one of us is as good as another. Our ambitions are the same. We stand here together for the best interests of this growing country-this country whose first word has always has been fair play. drowsily. The prosecuting attorney

"Now, say, friend, you don't want to get too gay."

"Answer the question, Mr. Has kins," said the court.

"Well, all right, judge; I'll do it to oblige you. The most we saw there was where a fire had been. Looked like a right smart fire. They was plenty o' ashes lyin' there."

"Did you see anything in the ashes?"

"What business is it a' yourn?" "Now, now," said the court, "you must answer the questions, Mr. Has-

"All right, judge," said Curly. "Well, I dunno hardly what we did see any mor'n what I tole all the boys when we first brought Juan in. I tole you

"Very well," said the prosecutor; "what did you see? Anything like a

man's figure?" "We object!" said Franklin, but Curly answered: "Well, yes, it did look like a feller a-layin' there. But when we touched it-

"Never mind. Did the prisoner see this figure?" "Shore."

"What die be do?"

hollers. I 'low he wuz plenty scared." "Did he look scared?"

"Well, when we roped him he didn't | friend. make no kick." "Never mind. He saw the figure in

the ashes?" "What do you know about it?-you wasn't there.'

"No, but I am going to make you tell what was there."

"You are, huh? Well, you crack yer whip. I like to see any feller make

me tell anything I don't want to tell." "That's right, Curly," said some one back in the crowd. "No bluff goes."

"Not in a hundred!" said Curly. "Now, now, now," began the judge

"Take the witness," he said abruptly,

"Cross-'xamine, d'fense," said the

"Now, Curly," said Franklin, as he

"Well, of course, Juan acted plenty

"Very well. Now, what, if anything

"What did I do to it?" said Curly

did you do to this alleged body in the

"Why, it fell plumb to pieces."

"Shore It did. Wasn't a thing left."

"No. it just looked like a pile of

"Bore no trace or resemblance to a

"You wouldn't have taken it for

"Was any part of a body left?"

"Any boot, hat or bit of clothing?"

"Not a single thing, fur's I c'd see."

"Well, now, Curly," said Franklin,

"please tell us how long you have

"Ever since we was kids together.

"Did you ever know him to receive

"Well, onct ole Hank Swartzman

any injury, any blow about the head?"

swatted him over the head with a

swingletree. Sort o' laid him out,

"Did he act strangely after receiv-

"Why, yes: I reckon you would your-

self. He Lit him a good lick. It was

for ridin' Hank's favorite mare, an'

bronco, but all the time he's k.co."

"Shore. You know that. You seen

"Oh, keep nim to the line," pro-

"He has spells of violence?"

how he fit that Injun-"

tested the prosecutor.

He used to be a mozo on my pap's

ranch, over in San Saba county."

"Did it look like a man's body,

took up the questioning again, "please

supposed figure in the ashes."

"Why, I poked it with a stick."

loco-you know that."

"What happened?"

"Did it disappear?"

"None whatever."

"Nope, Course not."

known this prisoner."

man, then?"

body, then?"

some."

ing that blow?"

"Nary thing."



"I say, first give him his chance."

Now, is it your already formed wish | counseled of craftiness, at this june to punish this man? I say, no. I say, ture, foreseeing trouble if he insisted. first give him his chance."

As Franklin ceased and seated himself the silence was again broken by Judge, settling back. a rising buzz of conversation. This was proving really a very interesting tell us what Juan did after he saw this show, this trial. It must go on yet a little further.

"Call William Haskins," said the prosecuting attorney, standing up, with his hands in his pockets.

"William Haskins, William Haskins, William Haskins! Come into court!" cried out the clerk from his corner of the store box. No immediate response was made. Some one nudged Curly, who started up. "Who-me?" he said.

"Is your name William Haskins?"

asked the judge. "Reckon so," said Curly. "My folks used to call me that. I usually go under the road brand o' 'Curly,' though." He took his seat on a stool near the store box, was sworn, with his hat on, and the prosecuting attor-

ney began the examination. "What is your name?"

"Why, Curly."

"What is your occupation?" "What?"

"How do you make your living?" "Punchin' cows. Not that I 'low it's any o' yore d-d business."

"Where do you reside?" "Where do I live?"

"Yes." "Well, now, I don't know. My folks lives on the Brazos, an' I've been drivin' two years. Now I take up a claim on the Smoky, out here. I low I'll go North right soon, to Wyomin', maybe."

"How old are you?" "Oh, I don't know; but I low about twenty-four or twenty-five, along in there."

"Where were you last Wednesday?"

"What?" "Were you one of the posse sent out to search for Cal Greathouse?"

"Yep; me and Cap Franklin, there." "Who else?" "Why, Juan, there, him. He was is loco. Part o' the time, Juan, he's

trailin' the hoss for us." "Where did you go?" "About sixty miles southwest, into

the breaks of the Smoky." "What did you find?" "We found a old camp. Hoss had

been tied there and broke his lariat.

Bushes was broke some, but we didn't want something they ain't none o' you said a word about yet, I'll tell you see no blood, as I know of." something. You see, Juan, he had a "Never mind what you dicn't see." sister, and this here Cal Greathouse,

"Well now-"

"Answer my question."

cule! I object!"

"Er, ah-h-h!" yawned the judge, suddealy sitting up. "Journ court, Mr. Clerk! We will set to-morrow mornin' at the same place, at nine o'clock. Who is in charge of this prisoner? There ought to be some one to take care of him."

"I object, yo' Honoh! I object!" cried the state's attorney, spruging to

his feet. "This is bringin' the dignity

o' the law into ridicule, sah! Into ridi-

"I reckon I am, Juage," said Curly. "He is sort o' stayin' with me while school case decided by the Illinois su-Bill's under the weather."

"Well, take him in charge, some one, and have him here in the morn-"All right, judge," said Curly quiet-

ly, "I'll take care of him."

a verdict had been rendered.

It was three o'clock of the afternoon. The thirst of a district judge had adjourned the district court Franklin's heart sank. He dreaded the night. The real court, as he admitted to himself would continue its

session that night at the Cottage bar,

and perhaps it might not adjourn until

CHAPTER XXII.

The Verdict.

There came over the town of Ellisville that night an ominous quiet. But few men appeared on the streets. Nobody talked, or if any one did there was one subject to which no reference was made.

Franklin finished his dinner, went to his room and buckled on his revolver, smiling grimly as he did so at the "Well, he acted plumb lcco. He get | related t violence, and how relative | Chicago car barn bandits. Capt. Ashdown an' hollers. 'Madre de Dios!' he | to its environment is all law. He went | lock will use the weapon to guard the to Battersleigh's room and knocked entering at the loud invitation of that

> "Shure, Ned, me boy," said Battersleigh, "ye've yer side arms on this evenin'. Ye give up the profission of arms with reluctance. Tell me, Ned, what's the campaign fer the evenin'?"

step over and sit awhile with Curly this evening. He may be feeling a little lopesome."

Battersleigh cheerfully. "Quite right. An' if ye don't mind I'll just jine ye. It's lonesome I am meself the night." Battersleigh busied himself about his room, and soon appeared arrayed, as was Franklin himself, with re-

volver at his belt. "Shure, Ned, me boy," he said, "an officer an' a gincleman should nivver appear abroad without his side arms. At laste, methinks, not on a night like this." He looked at Franklin calmly, and the latter rose and grasped the hand of the fearless old soldier without a word. The two strolled out together down the street in the direction of the shanty where Curly was keeping his "prisoner."

(To be continued.)

CLEVER TRICK THAT WON.

Ambitious Youth Sold His Verses by a

Many years ago, writes Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich in "Ponkapog Papers," a noted Boston publisher used to keep a large memorandum book on a table in his private office. The volume always lay open, and was in no manner a private affair, being the receptacle of nothing more important than hastily scrawled feminders to attend to

this thing or the other. It chanced one day that a very young, unfledged author, passing through the city, looked in upon the publisher, who was also the editor of famous magazine. The unfledged had a copy of verses secreted about his person. The publisher was absent and young Milton sat down and waited.

Presently his eye fell upon the memorandum book, lying there spread out like a morning newspaper, and almost in spite of himself he read, "Don't forget to see the binder." "Don't forget to mail E. his contract," "Don't forget H.'s proofs," and so forth.

youth. He took a pencil and at the tail of this long list of "don't forgets" he wrote, "Don't forget to accept A.'s

He left his manuscript on the table and disappeared. That afternoon when the publisher glanced over his memoranda he was not a little astonished compete for the essay prize. at the last item; but his sense of humor was so strong that he did accept the poem-it required a strong sense of humor to do that-and sent the lad a check for it, although the verses remain to this day unprinted.—Youth's ment meets in Springfield to elect Companion.

Mechanical Aids to Rapid Reading. At the meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, held recently, M. Andre Broca and M. Sulzer communicated a paper on the subject of rapid reading. They showed that the different letters of the alphabet are not all apprehended with the same quickness. For instance, the time taken to recognize an E is nearly one-third longer than that taken to recognize a T. They consider that the alphabet is badly designed from a physiological point of view. It should be composed of very simply designed letters as T or L. Rapidity of reading would thus be increased and "brain fag" would be notably diminished. It would also be from that time to now Juan ain't better to have the letters printed in never been on horseback since. That | white on a black ground than the sysshows he's loco. Any man what walks tem which obtains at present. The time taken to recognize a letter printed in black on a white ground was nearly ten times longer than white on a black ground.

An Interesting Girl. Goldenrod-I'm quite anxious that "Now, say," insisted Curly, "if you you meet her.

> Silverton-What sort of a girl is she one with a past? Goldenrod-No; but I don't think she'd object to having one.-Town Topics.

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS

BARREN VICTORY FOR NEGROES, | REVERSES ALTON SCHOOL CASE

Little Likelihood of Success in Entering School at Alton.

An interesting feature of the Alton preme court is that the colored people as a whole may still be unable to gain the admission to all the white schools. The suit was started by Scott Bibb for his two children. During the seven years the case has been in the courts one of the children has become older than the school age, and the other is nearly too old to go to school. Now It is claimed by legal authority tha when the mandamus is issued by the supreme court, as it probably will be soon, the writ will apply only to the Bibb children, and that for the re mainder of the colored people the victory will be a barren one. Upper Al ton had a similar suit many years ago, and when the writ of mandamus was issued it applied only to the children of one family.

Prepares for Trouble.

Capt. J. N. Ashlock of the Alton night police has one of the most dan gerous weapons in the city, which he purchased in anticipation of trouble during the World's fair. The weapon is a magazine revolver machine gun thought of bow intimately all law is similar to the weapons used by the headquarters at night, it being necessary for him to be frequently alone guarding bad characters.

Children Get Property.

The supreme court has affirmed the decision of the Christian county circuit court in the Orlando Piper will "Well," said Franklin, "I thought I'd | case. The case as decided by both courts renders invalid the will of Orlando Piper of Assumption, and the estate, valued at \$50,000, will now be "Quite right ye are, me boy," said divided equally among the eight children of the deceased. Three of the children, who were not bequeathed any property, brought the suit to test the validity of the will.

Greater Decatur.

The propositions to admit two tracts of land to the city of Decatur were carried at the election, and this will add about 500 people to the population. The districts admitted now join the city limits. The proposition to put the police force and the fire department on a civil service basis also carried.

Clerks Will Play Ball.

The retail clerks of Mount Vernou have organized a baseball team, Fletcher Poole being elected captain and Walter Boyd manager. The other members are: Ed Burnett, La Verne Cooper, Charles Palmer, Frank Dewey, Fritz Ochm, Orlic Pemberton and William Dewey.

Survey for Railroad.

Surveyors are at work on the proposed Okaw & Eastern railway, which passes through Clinton county, seven miles north of Carlyle, running east and west. The right-of-way, including right to a mine the underlying coal, has about all been secured.

Successful Paulist Mission.

ed by Fathers Conway and Harney. Paulist fathers at St. Patrick's Catholic church, Decatur, is being largely attended. The mission will be continued until May 1.

Speaks to Librarians.

Miss Alice Tyler, secretary of the Iowa Library commission, spoke at Decatur at the session of the Illinois Library association. Miss Tyler was An inspiration seized upon the formerly assistant librarian of the Deeatur library.

Girl Orator Is Selected.

Miss Ethel Borden has been selected to represent the Alton schools in the declamatory contest. May 6, in Collinsville. Miss Pauline Gay will

Would Be W. R. C. Chaplain.

Mrs. C. L. Carroll of Taylorville is a candidate for chaplain of the state W. R. C. encampment. The encamp officers.

Woman Murderer Begins Sentence. Mary Terry, sentenced to twenty years in Chester penitentiary for the murder of Leona Granberry, has been taken to the prison

School Exhibit for Fair. The Cairo high school has collected an exhibit of the work done in the various departments of the city public schools, to be sent to the World's

Civil Service Lases.

fair at St. Louis.

The proposition to establish civil service in the Alton police and fire department failed to carry by a small

Presbyterian Commissioners.

The commissioners to the Presbymeet in Buffalo, N. Y., the third Thursday in May, chosen by Alton presbytery, are: Rev. Edward Harris of

Brighton and J. G. Benner of Wood-

Take Up Deaconess Work. Loses Stock in Barn Fire. Two barns belonging to W. G. Spiller of Carbondale were destroyed by fire. Five borses and four mules perished. The loss is \$3,000; partially city, beginning May 2, with Miss Hart-

Supreme Court Declares Negroes Were Discriminated Against.

Among other opinions handed down by the Illinois supreme court at Springfield was the celebrated Alton school case, in which the court, for the fourth time, decided to reverse the decision of the Mason county circuit court, sending it back to trial for the afth time. The suit was brought by a colored taxpayer named Scott Bibbs, who asked for a writ of mandamus to compel the city of Alton to permit him to send his children to the Washington school. The city had refused to let him send his children there, saying that there were two schools especially set apart for the colored children of Alton. In the decision, the supreme court declares that the contention of the Alton city council that they were not discriminating against Bibbs on account of his color is unworthy of consideration.

Wins \$10 by Marrying.

R. J. Carson of East St. Louis wagered \$10 with a friend that he would be married before evening. The wager was taken, and Carson is abead that sum. Within an hour after making the wager, Carson called upon Mrs. Lizzio Vogt, formerly Miss Alice Jackson, and asked her to accompany him downtown. She did so, and as they passed the license office, Carson requested Mrs. Vogt to step in and get a marriage license. She consented and in less than afteen minutes they had been married by Judge Driscoll.

Sells Skin to Aid Mother.

In an attempt to save the life of one of his employes who was terribly burned, Charles Richter advertised in the Chicago daily newspapers to get \$1,000 worth of live cuticle. Among the persons who responded to Richter's "ad" was a boy, who offered to let the doctors take as much as they wanted, saying his mother was sick, and he wanted the money to aid her.

I.. Nichols, consulting engineer of

Edwardsville Will Get Road.

the McKinley syndicate, which is constructing the Decatur, Springfield, and St. Louis electric line, stated that no matter which route through the northern portion of Madison county was decided upon, the road would pass through Edwardsville.

Geta World's Fair Appointment.

Roy I. Wilson of Salem has been appointed assistant superintendent of the dairy division in the Horticultural building at the World's Fair. Mr. Wilson is a graduate of the horticultural department of the Illinois university at Champaign.

Raise Library Quarantine. The state board of health has removed the quarantine from the Tay-

lorville public library. The place has been closed for four weeks on secount of a scarlet fever epidemic. School Bond Election.

The Carbondale board of education has called a special election for May 7 to vote on the question of issuing The mission which is being conduct. \$17,000 bonds for the purpose of building a new high school.

Ball Club Managers.

P. C. Scullin has been chosen manager of the Cairo baseball club for this season. Edward Kavanaugh will be assistant manager.

Plane Four-Mile Spur.

The Wabash railroad is planning to build a spur from New Berlin to Berlin in Sangamon county, a distance of about four miles.

Baptizes Thirty-five.

Rev. W. M. Rhoads of Upper Alton baptized thirty-five persons at the Pleasant Point Baptist church, near Greenfield.

Signal Man Loses Thumb. William Price, a signal man for the Chicago & Alton, suffered the loss of a thumb while completing a new block system.

Invalid Drowns Herself. Miss Hanna Olson, aged 34, drowned herself in a cistern at Moline. She had been an invalid for five years.

Coal Men to Meet. A conference meeting of the coal operators of Illinois and Wisconsin will be held in Decatur April 28.

Grant Twenty-Year Franchise. Auburn has granted the Springfield and St. Louis interurban railroad company a twenty-year franchise.

Reduce Price of Coal. The coal dealers of Taylorville have reduced the price of coal 15 cents a

Limite Crossing Blockade. At a meeting of the Centralia city

terian general assembly, which will council an ordinance was passed limiting the time a railroad is allowed to block a street crossing to ten consecutive minutes. A violation of the ordi nance means a fine of \$10.

> The Woman's Home Missionary so ciety of the three Methodist Episco pal churches in Springfield will en gage in active deaconess work in the well in charge.

his apartments the other of known man about town chain beautiful electric clock room mantel.

"See that?" is the latest invention. I wanter tise it so that it will ring the B any time, day or night."

As he spoke he sat uncome on the edge of his bed.

"Now, watch it!" he said. The hands marked 9:20. Euch something inside the clock began ring off sounds that appeared to musical dots and dashes. First there were four sets of five rings, and then nine solemn rings in a deeper tone which, being interpreted, meant 9:30 o'clock. The guests were much mys tified, but their host explained that he was surreptitiously pressing an old

tric button attached to the bedpost The new kind of clock is an ex pensive ornament, and it is specially designed for people who are in the habit of waking up in the midnight hours. When they wake and wonder what time it is, all they have to de is to touch the button. Then the hour is rung off, and they can tall asleep again without having had the trouble of striking a light to satisfy their curiosity.-- New York Times.

CAT PLAYS PING-PONG.

Massachusetts Town Can Intelligent Kitten.

In Bedford, Mass., there is no eightmonths-old kitten who plays ping-pong by himself and does many tricks which are often performed by dogs, but seldom by cats. He will all in imitation of a rabbit while he begs for a bit of meat, and will do a regular dance on his hind legs in return for a second helping.

Tiger is as inquisitive as a monkey. If a box comes to the house he is the first to want the cover removed. He gets into bureau drawers, inspects the contents of visitors' suit cases if the lids are left unfastened, and last Christmastime, when a tree, hung



with presents, was placed to one of the rooms, Tiger, after looking it carefully over and perhaps wondering why he hadn't noticed it before, climbed up to an easy perch among the branches and proceeded to eat the festoons of popped corn.

When there is no one disposed to play ball with Tiger be calls the game himself, and at once becomes the whole team. He throws the ball into the air, bats it about with his paws, runs to the top of the stairs for a throw-down, and after winning a hot, hard game, curls himself up in a punch bowl for a snooze.

Death Attributed to Shoe Polish.

City Chemist Kirchmaler and Coroner Storz of Toledo, Ohio, decided that W. S. Rader, who died suddenly, and whose death was attributed to cigarettes and dancing, was poisoned by nitrobenzole, an ingredient of shoe polish that Rader had used. This chemical is very deadly, and of fortyeight cases of such poisoning recorded there has been but one recovery. The coroner's attention was attracted by the odor of the shoes and the blackened fiesh around the young man's ankles.-From the Chicago Record-Herald.

MADE LONG RUN FROM BEAR.

"From June to January," Declared an Arkansas Negro.

Judge Henderson M. Somerville of the Board of United States General Appraisers once defended an Arkansas negro charged with robbery. The defense was an alibi. When the defendent took the stand he declared



at the time it was committed because it was "berry time," and he was in the woods. "But how do you know you were in the woods on that particular day?"

that he could not

have been at the

scene of the crime

was the reply, "on bigges' bar I ave did see, and I run an' I run, till come out on de lake, an' de los br

he was asked.

"Because, boss,"

an' I fell in an' was nearly drown "I thought you said it was time?" the prosecuting atter