

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

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

CHAPTER XXIV—Continued.

"Ned," said the tall Irishman, rising and laying a hand upon his shoulder...

Battersleigh's words caused Franklin's face to grow still more grave, and his friend saw and suspected the real cause.

Franklin shook his head mutely, but Battersleigh showed only impatience with him.

"Yes," said Franklin sadly, "that is it. That is what my own answer has been."

Battersleigh's face grew grave in turn. "There's no style of assault more difficult than that same," said he.



"The Consate o' you!"

"I had my hopes," said Franklin, "but they're gone. Let it go that way."

"Spoken like a man," said Battersleigh, "an' if ye'll stick to that ye're the more like to win."

Franklin smiled in spite of himself. "Battersleigh's Tactics and Manual of Strategy," he murmured.

"There's naught in life but what we're ready to take for ourselves!" cried Battersleigh.

"But, me dear boy, spakin' o' important things, I rarely must be goin' now. I've certain important preparations that are essential before I get drunk this evenin'."

"O Battersleigh, do be sensible," said Franklin, "and do give up this talk of getting drunk."

Battersleigh's hand was on the door knob. "The consate o' you!" he said.

And now there still fared on the swift, sane empire of the West. The rapid changes, the strivings, the accomplishments, the pretensions and the failures of the new town blended in the product of human progress.

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Franklin's place in the business world was assured. He had no occasion for concern.

For most men this would have been prosperity sufficient; yet never did Edward Franklin lie down with the long breath of the man content; and ever in his dreams there came the vague beckoning of a hand still half unseen.

So much for the half-morbid frame of mind due for the most part to the reflex of a body made sick by an irregular and irrational life.

Steadily, and with an insistence somewhat horrible, there came to Franklin's mind a feeling that this career which he saw before him would not always serve to satisfy him.

Of such travail, of such mould, have come great architects, great engineers, great writers, musicians, painters, indeed great me of affairs beings who stand by the head and shoulders above other men as leaders.

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surely set on, so that of one thus tormented to his inner self it may be mere accident which shall determine whether it is to be great artist or great artisan that is to be born again.

To Franklin, dreaming as he woke or slept, there sometimes waved a hand, there sometimes sounded a voice, as that which of old summoned the prophet in the watches of the night.

CHAPTER XXV.

The Great Cold.

The land lay trusting and defenceless under a cynical sky, which was unthreatening but mocking.

Yet there was no snow. There had been none the winter before.

One morning the sun rose with a swift bound into a cloudless field.

Somewhere, high up in the air, unheralded, invisible, there were passing some thin inarticulate sounds, far above the tops of the tallest smoke spires.

They were, through all this terrible time, perfect respecters of their human allies, and the little children used to go among them and play with them by petting them with toy whips.

(To be continued.)

Faithful Dogs.

The faithfulness of the dog is well known, though not appreciated as it should be.

We learn the following about this animal from the writings of Frederick Schwatka, who made a wonderful trip on a sledge from Hudson Bay to the Arctic Ocean.

Says Schwatka: "They were, through all this terrible time, perfect respecters of their human allies, and the little children used to go among them and play with them by petting them with toy whips."

"It was pitiable in the extreme to see their sufferings, as they devotedly helped us along—many of them up to the very minute they had to be taken from the harness and abandoned along the road."

Perfectly True.

"He says he is in business for himself now manufacturing automobiles."

"And he claims not one of his machines has ever been known to break down on the road."

"That's right; he hasn't sold any yet."

Season for Beggars.

Even beggars have their "season" in Constantinople. During the winter months the city harbors a much larger number of them than in the summer, when many migrate to the country.

Illinois News

Choice items from over the state specially selected for our readers.

RAILROAD EMPLOYE IS KILLED

Man's Head is Split and His Body is Hurled 150 Feet.

Within two days after he arrived from Indianapolis, Ind., to take the position of operator in the Big Four interlocker in the Mitchell yards, near Alton, Harry Cook, aged 26, was struck by a Chicago & Alton train.

LONG AND USEFUL LIFE.

Charles Phinney, aged 93, died in Alton after a two weeks' illness. Mr. Phinney was a resident of Alton nearly seventy years, and until the beginning of his last illness, was actively engaged in business.



was born at Wauquoit, Mass., Aug. 25, 1810 and moved to Alton in 1838. His interest in public events never faltered and he was one of the leading citizens during his whole period of residence in the city.

Epworth League Election.

The Epworth league of the Ashland M. E. church of Virginia has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Eugene Clemons;

License Law is Unconstitutional.

Jacob Neumann of Chicago has been conducting a clothing sale at Dixon, and the Merchants' association had caused his arrest three different times for failure to supply a city license of \$250.

Fireman Sues for \$20,000.

A suit for \$20,000 damages was filed in the circuit court at Alton by Frank Hinkle against the St. Clair, Madison and St. Louis belt railroad company.

Dust Caused Herran Disaster.

The coroner's jury at Carbondale has been unable to fix the blame for the disaster in the Herran mine other than that the frightful loss of life was from the dust in the mine catching fire from the explosion of only one keg of powder.

Boy Uses a Club.

Charles Peacock of Ewing, Mo., was struck on the head with a club by a boy with whom he had a controversy at Quincy. He is in a very precarious condition.

Centralia's Finances.

City Treasurer Bruno Diehl of Centralia has published his annual statement, showing the financial condition of the city for the fiscal year ending April 21. The total receipts were \$66,497.31; expenditures, \$52,046.01.

Alton Man Strikes Gold.

Word received from Frank Markey, a former Alton man, is that he has made a strike of gold in the Cripple Creek district, for which he has received \$20,000. Markey has a brother in Alton who is a fisherman.

LAZY HUSBAND GETS DUCKING

Magistrate Justifies Brother-in-Law in Avenging the Wife.

Police Magistrate Rose of Alton decided that Robert Voyles was justified in giving his brother-in-law, Fred Wilhelm, a ducking in a fish pond for not supporting his wife, Voyles' sister, and for going fishing when he should have been at work.

RESCUE WOMAN FROM A BLUFF

Man and Wife in Skiff Release Victim in Nick of Time.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Stepany rescued an old woman from a perilous position on a cliff of the Piasa bluffs above Alton. They were out in a skiff near Elsieh when their attention was attracted by cries, and, on investigating they saw the woman clinging desperately to a point of rock.

Miner Kills Bartender.

John Fullerton, a well-known citizen of Girard, was killed in a saloon by Hines Stupin, a coal miner. Fullerton was a bartender and a disagreement arose over making change.

Fractures Ankle in Runaway.

Mrs. Edward Barnett, living a short distance east of Edwardsville, was thrown from a buggy by a runaway horse, resulting in the fracture of her left ankle, besides numerous cuts and bruises.

Play With Toy Pistol.

While Chris Koller and a boy named Weeks were handling a 22-caliber revolver at Edwardsville the weapon was accidentally discharged, the bullet lodging in young Koller's cheek, causing a painful, though not serious, wound.

To Build Parsonage.

The Presbyterian church of Virginia will build a new parsonage as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. The finance committee in charge is composed of Messrs. George Conover, Herman Carls and Hon. R. W. Mills.

Aged Woman Splits Wood.

Mrs. Mary Rosemann, aged 63, while splitting kindling at Waterloo, was struck in the left eye by a small piece of wood, which pierced the eyeball. It is thought the injury will cause the loss of the eye.

Street Paving at Salem.

The board of local improvements of Salem, which is composed of Mayor Tweed and Aldermen J. D. Telford and John C. Martin, has issued plans for about twenty blocks of brick street pavement.

Sell Lots to United States.

C. P. Housum and George Moeller conveyed to the United States of America lots on North Main street, Decatur, which are to be used as the site for United States government building.

Deadly Target Rifle.

Clark Hoar, aged 13, son of Rev. B. A. Hoar, pastor of the M. E. church of Equality, was accidentally shot while playing with a target rifle. The wound, it is feared, will prove fatal.

Asks \$1,000 From City.

Mrs. Sarah E. Sexton has filed a suit against the city of Litchfield for damages for injuries sustained by falling on a defective sidewalk. The sum asked for is \$1,000.

Falls Down Stairs.

Burton A. Brockman, an employe of the Gardner governor works at Quincy, fell down a long flight of stairs, receiving dangerous injuries.

Child Fractures Arm.

May Martin, the 9-year-old daughter of C. W. Martin, residing east of Nashville, sustained a fracture of the left arm by falling from a wagon.

Draws Revolver on Chief.

John Feddeson of Assumption was arrested at a Pana hotel. He drew a revolver on the chief of police and then dashed through a window, where a couple of citizens caught and disarmed him after a terrific struggle.

Pest Destroys Trees.

Prof. F. M. Webster of the university of Illinois visited Decatur to examine the elm trees in the parks, with a view of learning the nature of the pest which is destroying the trees.

HARD BLOW FOR COAL TRADE

Appellate Court Decides Decision Banded in Restraint of Law.

A blow was delivered to the coal trusts in Illinois when the appellate court at Chicago affirmed Judge Newton's decision of the corporations and officers forming the Northern Illinois soft coal dealers' association. The indictments were returned by a special grand jury in January, 1902, during the anthracite miners' strike.

DEATH OF G. A. R. MAN.

Col. Edgar D. Swain, formerly department commander of the Illinois G. A. R., died at his home in Batavia of apoplexy. He had lived in Chicago many years, during which time he had practiced dentistry, but moved to



COL. ED. SWAIN

Batavia four years ago. Colonel Swain also was prominent to the Loyal Legion, and for a time was colonel of the First Regiment, I. N. G. He was to have acted as chief of staff to Gen. C. S. Beatley in the Memorial day parade.

Will Benefit Illinois Central.

From the time active construction work begins on the Panama canal a considerable volume of traffic in connection therewith is likely to be carried by the Illinois Central railroad. Not only will a large portion of the material and supplies used in the construction of the waterway pass over the road, but the actual opening of the canal cannot fail to stimulate traffic through gulf ports.

Engineer Company Reorganizes.

Col. Theodore Ewert, acting under orders of Adjt. Gen. Scott, mustered out of the service of the state the engineer company at Springfield, Capt. Frank H. Hamilton commanding. The company was immediately reorganized as an independent organization and the former officers re-elected. At the election in Troop D, First Illinois cavalry, Second Lieut. Walz was elected captain, to succeed John Vorheis, resigned. Sergt. Gibson was elected first lieutenant.

Contracts Not to Wed.

The directors of the Montgomery school have adopted a novel method to insure themselves against the resignation of their teachers. Miss Ethel Eaton, the latest to be appointed, has signed a contract which stipulates that she will consider no proposition of marriage during her term of school. The directors have been annoyed for several years by the resignation of teachers and have resorted to this method as a last hope.

Quincy Chamber of Commerce.

At the annual meeting of the Quincy chamber of commerce John B. Cruttenden was elected president, E. J. Parker and C. H. Williamson first and second vice presidents, C. S. Nichols treasurer, and the officers, Frank W. Osborn, David Stern and Capt. William Somerville, directors.

Board Selects Teachers.

The Arensville board of education has appointed Prof. Richard Linder superintendent of public schools. Owen Gould was appointed principal and Miss Ethel Bower teacher of the primary department.

Release Postmaster's Salary.

The postoffice department at Washington has notified Postmaster General of Centralia that the increase of salary during the year just closed entitled him to an increase of salary.