

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

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

CHAPTER XXVIII.—Continued. One morning the little street car stood, as was its wont, at the terminus of the track, near the front of the wide grounds of the old mansion house.

At this terminus of the line at the outskirts of the town there was each morning enacted the same little scene. The driver slowly unhitched his mules and turned them about to the other end of the car, in readiness for the return journey.

Presently from a side street, faced by a large brick dwelling, there came with regular and unhurried tread a tall and dignified figure, crowned with a soft Panama, and tapping with official cane.



Franklin drew her closer to him.

"Yessah, seems like," said the driver, his head again falling. In perhaps five or ten minutes perhaps half an hour, there would be heard the tapping of another cane, and Dr. Gregg, also tall, not quite so portly, and wearing a white beaver instead of a soft Panama, would appear from the opening of yet another side street tributary to the car.

"Good mawnin', James," said the doctor as he passed, and the driver answered respectfully. "Good mawnin', Dottah. You'll late this mawnin', seems like."

"Very well, Dottah, sah, thank you, sah. Step in an' siddown. Right wahn, this mawnin', Uhah!"

"Lucky dog!" said the judge; "Lucky dog! But he seems a gentleman, and if he has propah fam'ly an' propah resources, it may be, yessah, it may be she's lucky, too. Oh, Norhehn, yessah, I admit it. But what would you expect, sah, in these times? I'm told they are some v'ehy fine people in the No'th."

"Deep through!" said the doctor, commencing with himself. "Carries his trunk gran'y. Splendid creatuh—splendid! Have him? O' co'she'll have him! What woman wouldn't? What a cadaver! What a subject!"

"Good God! my dear sir!" said the judge. "Really!" Franklin and Mary Ellen sat looking out before them, silent. At last he turned and placed his hand over the two that lay knit loosely in her lap.

"I knew it must be so," he whispered, quietly. "What—that must you think?" broke out Mary Ellen, angry that she could not resist.

"That's the oddest of it," said she. "Out on the prairies I called the South 'back home.' Now it's the other way." They fell again into silence, but already, lover-like, began to read each other's thoughts and to find less need of speech.

"You and I, dearest," said Franklin, finally, "you and I together, forever and ever. We'll live at the Halfway House. Don't shiver, child; I've built a fine new house there—"

Again the girl threw up her head, but her pride was going fast. "Then—then you think—you think it is no sin? Is there no lapse in this for me? You think I shall not be—"

A caged mocking bird at a little rear-by house burst out into a shrill peep, follow to that of the wild bird of the oaks. Mary Ellen felt her senses melting into a mysterious, bewildering joy. Unconsciously she swayed slightly against the shoulder of her lover.

"Fortune, lady?" he asked. The woman stopped and passed a coin to his hand. He lifted a bird from its perch and placed it on the edge of the tray. The bird picked up a folded slip of paper. The man took the paper and handed it to the woman.

"It's an awful hour to call," admitted Franklin under the rumble of the wheels. "I couldn't get a carriage and I hadn't any horse. There wasn't any car. Forgive me."

Illinois News

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

WANTS CHILDREN IN HIS FLATS

Alton Man Builds to Accommodate Families With Little Ones. The new flats built by Edmond Beall of Alton, which have been christened the "Storks' Nest" because of the novel rules governing inmates, have been completed, and the persons who succeeded in getting quarters in the new building will move in.

MUSSELS POISON THE WATER

State Board of Health Fears Epidemic Along the Wabash River. That there is a possibility of an epidemic of disease at Grayville and other towns along the Wabash river which get their water supply from that river is stated emphatically in a report made by Dr. E. F. Baker, who was sent by the state board of health to Grayville to investigate the mussel industry.

County Free of Debt.

At the meeting of the Adams county board of supervisors it was announced that the county had canceled all of its financial obligations and was not in debt the amount of one penny.

High School Election.

The directors of the new township high school at Mount Vernon have given notice that a special election will be held on Tuesday, June 20, for the purpose of voting on these propositions: The purchase of a school site, the purchase of a school house, the issuing of bonds and the location of a proper school site.

Texas Man Is Released.

Charles Munroe, a young man from Texas, who has been in the county jail at Chester for two months on a charge of stealing 194 pounds of copper telephone wire from Matt Sproul's warehouse at Sparta, was released on furnishing \$200 bond for his appearance at the September term of the circuit court.

Christian County Endeavors.

The ninth annual convention of the Christian County Christian Endeavor union will be held at Pana on June 23 and 24. The address of welcome will be given by Rev. F. P. Miller of Pana, and the response by Rev. J. W. Strain of Assumption.

Woman's Club Delegates.

Delegates and alternates to represent the Cairo Woman's club at the federation in Decatur follow: Delegates—Mrs. E. S. Dewey and Mrs. M. F. Gilbert; alternates—Mrs. W. H. Sutherland and Mrs. P. A. Taylor.

New Parole Officer.

Arch Williams of Quincy has been appointed parole officer for the Southern Illinois penitentiary, vice M. J. Doyle, resigned.

Old Soldiers Are Insane.

Patrick O'Brien and James Hearn, inmates of the state soldiers' home at Quincy, have been declared insane and sent to the asylum at Jacksonville.

Joins Panama Canal Corps.

B. H. Prater, son of L. A. Prater of Centralia, has been assigned to duty in the civil engineering corps for the construction of the engineering department of the University of Illinois, Champaign.

To Build Sewer System.

The special assessment for the construction of the proposed sewer system at Centralia was confirmed by Judge Holt in the county court. It is expected to have a contract ready by July 1.

WOMAN GROWS WEARY OF LIFE

Unable to Bear the Sting of Gossip She Hangs Herself. Mrs. Katie Blales, wife of Frank Blales, Belleville, committed suicide at her home by hanging herself with a clothesline in the woodshed. Mrs. Blales had been ill, suffering with a spell of nervousness. About 3 o'clock in the morning Mr. Blales awoke, and, failing to find his wife in the house, began a search of the outbuildings and discovered her lifeless body hanging in the woodshed. She had used a piece of an old clothes line, one end of which she tied to a rafter. She then mounted a chair and tied the other end around her neck and then jumped from the chair. Death ensued from strangulation. Several months ago Mrs. Blales was arrested for mistreating an adopted child, she having struck the child and fractured its arm. Complaint was made by the authorities and Mrs. Blales fined. The court also ordered that the child be taken away from its foster parents. Gossip, it is said, together with ill health, brought on temporary insanity and suicide.

HONOR VENERABLE MINISTER

Purse Full of Gold Is Given to Rev. Dr. L. A. Abbott. The golden wedding anniversary of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Abbott was observed in Upper Alton. Dr. Abbott is one of the oldest Baptist ministers in Illinois, and is still actively engaged as treasurer of Shurtleff college. During the afternoon friends called at the Abbott home and in token of esteem members of his old congregation in the First Baptist church presented him with a purse full of gold pieces. Dr. Abbott was a sea captain in the West Indies trade prior to his ordination as a minister, and served as a member of the Massachusetts legislature in 1852-54-55-56. He moved to Alton from Lacrosse, Wis., in 1879, and became pastor of the First Baptist church, where he remained until he retired to become treasurer of Shurtleff college in 1896. The venerable couple have three children living—Augustus L. Abbott of St. Louis, Mrs. E. H. Blair of Alton and Mrs. Laurens Enoch of Decatur.

State Will Sue Corporations.

State's Attorney Farmer has received instructions from Secretary of State Rose to immediately bring suit against about 100 corporations of St. Clair county for \$1,500 each. About one-third of the defendant corporations are in Belleville and the remainder in East St. Louis and other sections of the county. The suit is brought for failure to comply with the corporation laws, which provide that once each year all corporations shall mail to the secretary of state an affidavit showing that they are in no pool, combine, trust or monopoly.

Cave-In Kills Two.

James Dillbarh, white, and George Dozier, colored, employees of Sweeney & Mooney, East St. Louis contractors, engaged in placing the sewerage system in Edwardsville, were caught in a cave-in and killed. Their bodies were recovered. Dillbarh was from Tennessee and Dozier from St. Louis. Sam Wood, white, was pulled out of the excavation not much injured.

Knights Elect Officers.

Mystic lodge, Knights of Pythias, of Taylorville, has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Chancellor—commander Bert Buckley; vice-chancellor, Ern White; prelate, Tony Weitzel; master at arms, Iles Sharp; inner guard, Jesse Balen; outer guard, George Stravey; master of work, L. G. Froud; representative to grand lodge, E. R. Wright.

Golden Anniversary Dedication.

Joseph W. Powell of St. Paul, national representative of the brotherhood of St. Paul of the M. E. church, will have charge of the ceremonies at the dedication of the new M. E. church in Centralia on June 19. This date is also the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church here.

Toy Pistols and Blanks.

The city council of Centralia has passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale and use of blank cartridges or toy pistols commonly used in celebrating the Fourth of July.

Secure Phone Franchise.

C. D. Morey and Hugo Prill of St. Louis and G. E. Eis, Al Harding, Robert Rohl and others have secured a franchise to operate a telephone exchange in Centralia.

Returns From Jerusalem.

Rev. S. H. Bowyer of Decatur, who went to Jerusalem to attend the international Sunday-school convention, has returned home.

Gets Gold-Headed Cane.

H. A. Williamson, who has been president of the Quincy Building and Homestead association for thirty years, was given a gold-headed cane as a tribute to his efficiency by members of the organization.

State Sunday Schools.

The Illinois state Sunday school convention will be held in Mattoon. One thousand delegates will be in attendance and elaborate preparations are being made for their entertainment.

REVENGE IS DEARLY BOUGHT

Grant Robertson, a carpenter of Colfax, took upon Dr. T. J. Mettan of that city for having a married woman in whom Robertson was interested leave the city a divorced woman and expelled from the lodge of which she was a member. The jury in the United States district court at Springfield, after being out but ten minutes, found Robertson guilty of taking a letter from the postoffice at Colfax with intent to pry into the business of another. Sentence was not passed, and it is possible that Robertson will ask for a new trial or appeal the case.

The letter in question was one Dr. Mettan had written to Miss Hattie Waldo, the assistant postmistress at Colfax, and contained statements of a character very compromising to Dr. Mettan, who was a married man, and to Miss Waldo. Robertson circulated the contents throughout the place, so that Mettan, on his return with his wife, and Prof. Proudlev, the city superintendent of schools, from California, where he was when he had written the letter, was compelled to resign his position as a member of the board of education.

To Restrict Clergy Permits.

At a union meeting of committees representing the Western, Southwestern and Transcontinental Passenger associations held at Chicago it was decided to make important changes in the arrangements for clergy certificates for the year 1905. At present 65,000 clergymen are using permits which are good west of Chicago and St. Louis for any distance. These certificates have been subjected to more or less abuse and manipulation by brokers. Accordingly, the certificate of 1905 will be good for all distances up to a point where the rate is \$20. Beyond that, special permits will be necessary.

New Baden Miners Strike.

There is serious trouble at the New Baden coal mines. Two weeks since two firemen were discharged, which greatly incensed the miners. This was the origin of the difficulty. A few of the miners remained at work, but now the entire force of over 200 men have gone out on a strike, which threatens to be prolonged. The coal company has discharged fifteen miners. The output of the mine is forty cars daily and it supplies St. Louis industries.

Woman's Veteran Relief Union.

At the annual state convention of the Woman's Veteran Relief union at Quincy Mrs. Mollie Woodman of Chicago was elected president; Mrs. Lucy Bywater of Quincy, first vice-president; Mrs. Lucy Marquet of Quincy, second vice-president; Mae Donovan of Chicago, treasurer; Mrs. M. Thompson of Quincy, conductress; Mrs. Minnie Dolan of Quincy, assistant conductress; Mrs. Jennie Gruhn of Quincy, chaplain.

Auctioneers Elect.

The sixth annual meeting of the Illinois Auctioneers' association, held in Springfield at the statehouse, elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows: President, Col. G. H. Mason, Metamora; vice president Col. C. H. McDonald, Greenview; treasurer, Col. J. A. Reed, Peoria; secretary, Col. J. Robinson, Wapella. The convention adjourned to meet in Peoria in June, 1905.

Strikers Promise to Observe Law.

Sheriff Ragan returned to Carlyle from New Baden, where he had been investigating the strike. The miners treated him with the greatest courtesy and promised faithfully not to molest any of the property of the coal company. The engineers will be allowed to remain at their posts and keep the mine free from water.

Find Potters' Clay.

A four and one-half foot vein of potters' clay has been discovered on the farm of Gilbert Waller, eleven miles south of Centerville.

Methodist Conference.

Bishop McCabe of Chicago will preside at the Illinois M. E. annual conference to be held in Springfield September 7.

K. of P. Brigade Assembly.

The annual brigade assembly of the Illinois Knights of Pythias will be held in Springfield June 29.

Settle Teamsters' Strike.

The teamsters' strike prevailing at Edwardsville for several weeks has been settled and the men have returned to work. A compromise was effected, the men waiving the five-hour day and accepting an advance of from \$1.75 to \$1.85 per day.

Plan Fine Sewer System.

The board of local improvements will open bids on June 20 for the construction of the proposed sewer system at Centralia, which will cost about \$60,000.