"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, Northehn,

yessah, I admit it. But what would

you expeck, sah, in these times? I'm

told theh are some vehy fine people

"Deep through!" said the doctor, communing with himself. "Carries

his trunk gran'ly. Splendid creatuab

two that lay knit loosely in her lap.

Mary Ellen stirred, her throat moved,

"What-what must you think?"

broke out Mary Ellen, angry that she

"There, there, dearest!" he said.

Don't trouble. I knew it was to be.

came straight to you." He tightened

his grip upon her hands. Mary Ellen

straightened and looked him in the

"I'll admit it," she said, "I knew

that you were coming. I must have

highway. Franklin cast his arm about

be! We must work out our lives to-

at him with a new frankness and un-

Out on the prairies I called the South

"You and I, dearest," said Franklin,

finally, "you and I together, forever

and ever. We'll live at the Halfway

a fire new house there--"

"You've built a house?"

him. "Dear girl," he said, "it was to increase,

in the No'th."

subleck---"

pered, quietly.

could not resist.

dreamed it."

-with me?"

reserve.

of speech.

judge. "Really!"

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

A STORY OF THE PLAINS BY E. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY Cosyrighted, 1903. by D. Assiston & Company, New York

March Committee of the second formation of the second

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. This was far out upon the edge of the little city, and few were the patrons that might be expected; but it was held but mere courtesy to offer the services of the street car line to this family, so long recognized as one of the unimpeachably best of this Southern city. This modern innovation of the street car was not readily taken up by the conservative community, and though it had been established for some years, it might be questioned whether its shares had ever paid much interest upon their face value.

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 regressed this far, the mules fell at once into a deep state of dejection somnolence, their ears lopping down, their bodies drooping and motionless, save as now and then a faint swish of tail or wag of a weary ear his customary reproach also, but marauding fly. The driver, perched on am," he said, "pardon me, allow mehis seat, his feet upon the rail, his knees pushed toward his chin, sat with his broad hat drawn down upon his his legs, and all his attitude indicative of rest.

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. As it approached the car the driver straightened a trifle on the seat.

said.

"Uhah, good mawnin', James," replied the judge, "Uh-ab, Doctah Gregg lil late this mawnin', ch?"

with her aunt. And then Mary Ellen. deliberately tying the strings of her bonnet under her chin, turned, answering her aunt's summons for replevin of a forgotten fan. Then, slowly, calmly, the gown of white became more distinct as she came nearer, her tall figure composing well with the setting of this scene. For her patiently waited the judge and the doctor and the driver.

"Good mawnin', Miss Beecham, said the driver as she passed, touch ing his hat and infusing more stiffness into his spine.

"Good morning, sir," she replied, pleasantly.

"Uh-ah, good mawnin', Miss Beecham, good mawnin'," said Judge Wilson; and "Good mawnin'," said Dr. Gregg.

"Good morning, Judge Wilson," replied Mary Ellen, as she entered the car. "Good morning, Dr. Gregg." The gentlemen made way for her upon turn journey. Matters having pro- the shady side of the car, and lifted their hats ceremoniously.

> "L'il late this mawnin', Miss Beecham, seems like," said the judge, with no trace of resentment in his tones. Dr. Gregg upon this morning began

bespoke the knowledge of some bold, halted upon his tongue. "Miss Beechare you ill?" For Mary Ellen, settling herself for

her regular morning ride with her regforehead, his hands clasped between plar companions, all at once went pale as she gazed out of the window. She scarcely heard the kind remark. Presently from a side street, faced | She was looking at a man-a tall man with a brown face, with broad shoulders, with a long, swinging, steady stride. This man was coming up the side of the street, along the path between the fences and the burdocks that lined the ditch. His shoes were white with the limstone dust, but he "Good mawnin,', Judge Wilson," he seemed to care nothing for his way of locomotion, but reached on, his bead House. Don't shiver, child; I've built up, his eye searching eagerly.

Not with equipage, not mounted as a Southern cavasier, not announced,

"Yes, yes. Well, I'll confess itbought the place myself." "Then it was your money?" "And it is your money."

> edging away, biting her lip. "And so have I," said Franklin, stooping and kising her fingers with scandalous publicity. "I've a notion

"I've a notion, began Mary Ellen

that you shall not speak of that. It is ours. We've more than a thopsand acres of land there, and plenty of cattle. Curly shall be foreman-be's married the little waiter girl, and has come back to Elisville; they live next door to Sam and Nora. Aunt Lucy shall be our cook. We shall have roses, and green grass, and flowers. And you and I-you and I-shall live and shall do that which has been sent to us to do. Mary Ellen-dear Mary El-

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 -- " Franklin drew her closer to him. "Teat which is before us now is Life."

he said. "Dearest, how sweet-how very sweet!"

near by house burst out into a shrill paean, fellow to that of the wild bird | tions: The purchase of a school site, of the oaks. Mary Ellen felt her senses melting into a mysterious, bewildering joy. Unconsciously she swayed slightly against the shoulder of her lover. In her heart the music of the bird thrilled on, even when the tinkle of the little bell ceased, even when Franklin, stepping from the car, held up his bands to her and whispered, "Come.

(The End)

Buying a Good Fortune.

Four little green birds sat on a caca fronted with a tray. The tray held folded slips of paper. A man carried the whole. He strolled east in Grand street, near Mulherry, A woman, swarthy of complexion and with shawl drawn around her head and shoulders, looked at the birds and hesitated in her walk. The man, keen to notice any indication of trade, saw her hesitancy.

"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 ard handed it to the woman. The

ingly. "Gave her a good fortune, did you?" asked a man standing by. "Sure," said the man with the birds. All the fortunes are good. Birds tell

woman opened it, read, smiled, and

passed on. The man nodded approv-

no had fortunes." Then he smiled wisely .- New York Press.

Not What She Expected. sent to the asylum at Jacksonville. An English lord was recently dining with a family in New York. The hostess's little girl sat opposite the

Champaign.

lord and stared solemnly. "Are you an English lord, really and truly, sir?" she said at last. "Yes," he answered laughing, "realment of the University of Illinois,

ly and truly." "I never saw an English lord before," she said. I've always wanted

"And now you're satisfied, aren't you?" said the young man, gayly. "No, I'm not satisfied," responded the little girl. "I'm disappointed."-The Children's Visitor.

Illinois News

WANTS CHILDREN IN HIS FLATS | WOMAN GROWS WEARY OF LIFE | REVENGE IS DEARLY BOUGHT

-splendid! Have him? O' co'se Families With Little Ones. she'll have him! What woman The new flats built by Edmond Bewouldn't? What a cadaver! What a all of Alton, which have been christened the "Storks' Nest" because of "Good God! my dear sir!" said the the novel rules governing inmates, have been completed, and the persons who succeeded in getting quarters in Franklin and Mary Ellen sat looking out before them, silent. At last he the new building will move in. Since turned and placed his hand over the the owner announced that he would erect in the residence district in Alton, a series of flats which would be but she could not speak. Franklin for married people, and the fact that there were children in the family leaned forward and looked into her would serve as a recommendation "I knew it must be so," he whisrather than a bar to being accepted as tenants, Mr. Beall has been overwhelmed with applications. He has selected young married couples exclusively, most of them with one or more children. Mr. Beall, who president of the Alton Manufacturers' association and a former member of the city council, owns much real estate in the city and is interested in seeing Alton developed. He declares that large families are a good thing. and that he has resolved to set the example to landlords by providing a There in the car, upon the public place where couples may live without fearing they will be subjected to evic-

gether. Will you be happy-out there MUSSELS POISON THE WATER

Again Mary Ellen turned and looked | State Board of Health Fears Epi-

demic Along the Wabash River. That there is a possibility of an epf-"That's the oddest of it," said she. demic of disease at Grayville and other towns along the Wabash river back home.' Now it's the other way." which get their water supply from They fell again into silence, but that river is stated emphatically in a already, lover-like, began to read each report made by Dr. E. F. Baker, who other's thoughts and to find less need | was sent by the state board of health to Grayville to investigate the musse industry. Dr. Baker reports that at Grayville there are hundreds of men taking mussels from the bed of the river, cooking them in vats, to facili tate removal of the meat, collecting this meat in barrels and throwing it into the river, after a search of the shells for pearls. Dr. Baker reports having visited these fishing camps and having seen this meat floating in the river, "white, putrid and disgusting." The water supply is taken from that river. This pearl and button industry is assuming large proportions. reports Dr. Baker, and as a result of the menace notice has been served on large companies handling the business to bury this mussel meat and prevent the possibility of epidemic discases.

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. The last outstanding notes bave all been taken up. One was for \$8,000, with accrued interest of \$267.35, and the other \$15,000, with balance of interest due \$287.50. These notes were burned in the presence of the members of the board.

High School Election.

The directors of the new township high school at Mount Vernon have giv en notice that a special election will A caged mocking hird at a little be held on Tuesday, June 20, for the purpose of voting on these proposithe 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 104 pounds of copper telephone wire from Matt Sproul's warehouse at Sparta, was released on furnishing \$200 bond for his appear ance at the September term of the circuit court.

Christian County Endeavorers. 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 lederation 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

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 depart-

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.

Alton Man Builds to Accommodate

She Hangs Herself.

Mrs. Katie Blaies, wife of Frank Blaies, Belleville, committed suicide at her home by hanging herself with a clothesline in the woodshed. Mrs. Blaies had been ill, suffering with a spell of nervousness. About 3 o'clock in the morning Mr. Blaies 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. Blaies was arrested for mistreating an adopted child, she having struck the child and fractured its arm. Complaint was made by the authorities and Mrs. Blaies 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 her waist and drew her strongly to | tion or a raise in rent if their families

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 1852-54-62-68. 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 Enos 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 Dillbach, white, and George Dozier, colored, employes of Sweeney & Mooney, East St. Louis contractors. engaged in placing the sewerage sys tem in Edwardsville, were caught in a cave-in and killed. Their bodies were recovered. Dillbach 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, Hes Sharp; inner guard, Jesse Balen; outer guard, George Strevey; master of work, I 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. Pani 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 ex-

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

change in Centralia.

returned home.

Gets Gold-Headed Cane. president of the Quincy Building and Homestead association for thirty years, was given a gold-headed cane

bers 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 entertain-

as a tribute to his efficiency by mem-

Choice items from over the state.

specially selected for our readers

Unable to Bear the Sting of Gossip Taking Letter That Belongs to An

other Proves To Be Serious. The revenge which Grant Robert son, a carpenter of Colfax, took upon Dr. T. J. Mettan of that city for have ing a married woman in whom Robertson was interested leave the city divorced woman and expelled from the lodge of which she was a member, will cost Robertson dearly. The jury in the United States district court at Springfield, after being out but ten minutes, found Robertson guilty Q 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 Hattle 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. Proudley, 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.

Robertson, on the witness stand in his own behalf, testified that the letter was inclosed in an envelope addressed to himself, and that accompanying the letter, which was sealed and addressed to Miss Waldo, was a note which read: "This may be of interest to you."

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 55,000 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 cosl company has discharged fifteen miners. The output of the mine is forty cars daily and it supplies St. Louis in-

Woman's Veteran Relief Union.

dustries.

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 Markeet 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 Auctioneer's 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, Peorla; secretary, Col. J. J. Robinson, Wapella. The convention adjourned to meet in Peorla in June,

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 of 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 Sep-

tember 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. H. A. Williamson, who has been | 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 nine hour day and accepting an advance of from \$1.75 to \$1.85 per day.

> Plan Fine Sewer System The board of local i will open bids on June 20 for the struction of the proposed s tem at Centralia, w

Franklin drew her closer to him.

er, his head again falling.

street tributary to the car

"Good mannin, James," said the answered resmetfully

late this mawnin, seems like.

"Very well, Doctah, sah, thank you, in a mement Mary Eilen knew that all sah. Step in an' seddown. Right fear and all resistance were too late wahm, this mawnin'. Uh an!"

down in the car, and conversed, easily, tion, but only said, "Here am !!" And and in no baste, perhaps for five or | Mary Llien knew that she could no ten minutes, perhaps for half an hour longer make dental or delay. Her Now and then the driver cast a glarc: thoughts came rapid and confused out of the side of his eye over toward, her eyes swam; her heart heat fast the lion-headed gates, but no one was | Afar she heard the sirging of a mock nneasy or anxious. The mules were er in the oaks, throbbing, thrilling to apparent view very sad and still, high and sweet as though his heart yet really very happy within their would break with what he had to say. souls.

"Young lady lil late this mawnin

seems like," remarked the judge. "Oh, yes, but she'll be 'long direckknow how 'bout these young folks. They don't always realize the impohtance o' pressin' business mattehs. But we must fo'give heh, Judge, we must fo-give heh, foh she subtinly is well wo'th waitin' foh; yes, indeed."

right! Fine young lady, fine young of the car. There was a double groan, lady. Old stock, yes indeed! Beech. A little bell tinkled lazily. The rusty ams o' Fehginny. Too bad Cousin Sarann Clayton keeps heh so close like. She fitten to be received, sah,

to be received!" "Yes, indeed," assented the doctor. "Yes, sah. Now, ain't that the young

lady a-comin' down the walk?" Judge and doctor and driver now turned their gaze beyond the lionheaded gateway to the winding walk that passed among the trees up to the old mansion house. Far off, through the great columns of the trees, there might indeed this morning now be seen the flutter of a gown of white. The faint sounds of voices might be heard. Mary Ellen, conscientious marketer, was discussing joints and salads selves."

"Yessah, seems like," said the drive but in the most direct and swiftest In perhaps five or ten minutes, per- lin come. Strong, cager, masterful haps half an hour, there would be scorning the blazing sun, his reckless heard the tapping of another cane, waste of energy marked him as a and Dr. Gregg, also tall, not quite so stranger in that place. He stopped portly, and wearing a white beaver in-, at the gateway for one moment, look stead of a soft Panama, would appear ing up the path, and then turned swiftfrom the opening of yet another side by toward the car as though called

audibis As with a flash his face lighted, and doctor as he passed; and the driver; he struck straight on toward a woman whose heart was throbbing in a sud-"Good mannin', Bertah. You lil den tumpitmens terror. She saw him steep at the car deer, even as once "Well, yessah. I may be a lectle before she had seen him enter at late, just a leetle. Good mawrin', another towly down in another and Judge; how are you this mawnin', far off land. She felt again the fear which then she half admitted. But

The eyes of Franklin, direct, as-So the judge and the doctor sat sured almost sad, asked her no eyes-Judge Wilson and Dr. Gregg polite

ly removed their hats as Franklin entered the car and addressed Mary Elien. Confused by the abruptness of ly, I reckon," replied the doctor. "You it all, it was a moment before she rec ognized local requirements, and pre sented Franklin to the gentlemen. For an instant she planned flight, excape. She would have begged Franklin to return with her. Fate in the form of the driver had its way. "Git "Uh-ah! Quite right. Doctah, quite ep. mewel!" sounded from the front

> wheels began slowly to revolve. "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." It is only to be said that both judge and doctor were gentlemen, and loyal to beauty in distress. They both earned Mary Ellen's love, for they got off eight blocks sooner than they should have done, and walked more than half a mile in the sun before they

found a place of rest. "Oh, well, yessah, Judge," said Dr. Gregg, half sighing, "we were young once, eh, Judge?--young once ouh-