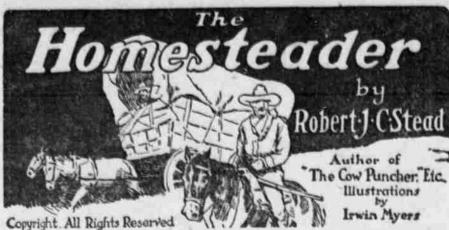
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vaded the atmosphere.

A week and passed, and no sign of

life, other than that of the little party

itself, had been seen about the Ar-

thurs' homestead, when one day Har-

prairie distances, espied a dark point

on the horizon. It grew slowly from

a point to a spot, from a spot to an

object, and at length was defined as

a man on horseback. Presently Aleck

"Hello, farmers," he cried, "how

goes the battle? An' the good wives?

Building a little Eden in this wilder ness, I'll warrant. Tell them to put

another name in the pot, an' a hungry

name at that. I haven't seen a white

The friends gathered about the old-

timer, plying him with questions,

which he answered or discussed until

the meal was over, holding his own

business quietly in the background.

But with supper ended, his pipe in his

teeth and his feet resting comfortably

"Ready for the road in the morn-

in, Jack? Don't want to break up

your little honeymoon, y' know, but

the month is wearing on. Nothing but

horseback for it now, an' they do say

the settlers are crowding up some-

thing wonderful. The best land's go-

ing fast. Most of them will hold up

now, with the roads breaking, but by

slipping out on our horses we can lo-

cate an' file before the real spring

rush opens. You should get some

kind of shelter up before the frost is

out of the ground, so's to lose no time

Harris needed no urging, and in the

early morning the two men, with blan-

kets and provisions, started out on

horseback for the still farther west:

Harris soon found that more judgment

from plowing once the spring opens."

in the oven, he broached his subject.

woman's meal I don't know when."

McCrae drew up at the door,

ris' eyes already becoming keen to the

board; and a sense of homeliness per-

ALEC M'CRAE.

Synopsis - Dissatisfied because of he seemingly barren outlook of his position as a school teacher in a John Harris deterlanadian town, nines to 'eave it, take up land in Manitoba steader." and pecome a , "home Mary, the giri whom he loves, declares she will accompany him. They are married and set out for the unknown country. Alec Mc-Crae, pioneer settler and adviser of newcomers, proves an invaluable friend. Leaving his wife with the family of a fellow settler, Fred Ar-thurs, Harris and McCrae journey over the prairie and select a home stead. Mary insists on accompanying him when he takes possession.

........................ CHAPTER II-Continued.

-3-

Darkness was settling down-darkness of the seventh night since their departure from Emerson-when, like a mole on the face of the plain, a little gray lump grew on the horizon. Arthurs rose in his sleigh and waved his fur cap in the air; Harris sent back an answering cheer. Slowly the mole grew until in the gathering shadows it took on indistinctly the shape of a building, and just as the rising moon crested the ridge of the Pemblna hills the travelers swung up at the door. Arthurs walked unerringly to a nall on the wall and took down a lantern; its dull flame drove the mist slowly down the glass, and presently the light was beating back from the glistening frost which sparkled on every log of the little room.

"Well, here we are in Hungry Hall," said Arthurs. "Everything just as I left it." Then, turning to his wife. "Come, Lil," he said. "Jack, perhaps you have an engagement of your own." He took his wife in a passionate embrace and planted a fervent kiss upon her lips, while Harris followed his example. Then they sat down on the boxes that served for chairs, amid a happiness too deep for words. • • • So the minutes passed until Mrs. Arthurs sprang to her feet. "Why, Mary," she exclaimed, "I do believe you're crying," while the moisture glistened on her own cheek. "Now, you men, clear out! I suppose you think the horses will stable themselves? Yes, I see you have the box full of wood, Fred. That's not so had

here. Remember we've lived in these clothes for the best part of two weeks." The young men sprang to their task and as soon as they were out of the house the girls threw their arms about each other and wept like women together. It was only for a moment; a quick dash of the hand across the eyes, and both were busy removing coats and wraps. The door opened, and their "boxes," as well as other equipment from the sleighs, were carried in, and the men disappeared to the little stable at the back of the house. After several attempts the girls succeeded in starting a fire in the rusted stove, and soon its grateful heat was radiating to every corner of the room. The house was built of poplar logs, hewed and dove-talled at the corners with the skill of the Ontario woodsman. It was about 12x16 feet in size, with collar-beams eight feet from the floor. The roof was of two thicknesses of elm boards, with tar paper between. The floor was of poplar boards. The door was in the east side, near the southeast corner; the stove stood about the center of the east wall. The only window was in the south; six panes of 8x10 glass sufficed for light. Through this window another lantern shone back from the darkness, and the flickering light from the stove danced in duplicate. A rough board table sat under the window; a box nailed in the southwest corner evidently served as cupboard. No tools or movables of any value had been left in the place, Arthurs having stored such effects with a neighbor, some dozen miles away, lest they be stolen from the cabin by some unscrupulous traveler during his absence. The days that followed were days of intense activity for both men and women. There was much to do, inside and out. In the Interior of the little house an extraordinary change was wrought; simple draperies and pictures relieved the bareness of the walls; shelves were built for the accommodation of many trinkets dear to the feminine heart; a rag carpet covered the center of the floor; plain but appetizing dishes peeked enticingly from behind the paper curtain that jected, finding always some flaw not now clothed the bare ribs of the cup- apparent to the untrained eye. At things that do not count-let them go, supplied.

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

McCrae turned his horse and rode back again. Forward and back, forward and back, they rode the 160 acres, until not a rood of it had escaped their scrutiny. On the southeast corner a stream, in a ravine of some depth, cut off a triangle of a few acres' extent. Otherwise it was prailying at the badger hotes. Down in the ravine, where they had been sheltered from fire, were red willows, choke cherry bushes, and a few little poplars and birches; a winding pond marked the course of the stream, which was running in considerable volume. Even as they stood on the bank n great cracking was heard, and huge blocks of lice rose to the surface of the pond. Some of these as they rose turned partly on their edge, showing two smooth sides.

"Good !" exclaimed McCrae, "There's some depth of water there. That pond hasn't frozen solid, or the ice, wouldn't come up like that. That means water all winter for stock, independent of your well-a mighty important consideration, which a lot of these landgrabbers don't seem to reckon on. Now there's a good quarter, Jack. This coulee will give shelter for your stock in raw weather, an' there's a bench looks as though it was put there for your little house. There's light timber to the north, fit for fuel an' building, within 15 miles, an' there'll be neighbors here before the summer's over, or I'm no prophet. What do you sny?"

"The quarter sults me," said Har-"And the adjoining quarter is ris. good stuff, too. I can take pre-emption right on that. But there's just one thing I'm in doubt about. How I'm going to square it with you for the service you have given. 'My cash is getting low, and-

"Don't worry about that. I generally size up my customer an' bill him accordingly. If he has lots of money, an' seems likely to part with it foolishly, I put as much of it as I can in safe keeping. But there isn't any money fee as far as you're concerned. Fact is, I kinda figure on trading this bill out with you. I expect to be roving this country, east an' west, for some years to come, an' I've a little policy of establishing depots here an' there-places where I can drop in for a square meal an' a sleep an' a bit of western hospitality, Places, too, if you like, where there are men to say a good word for Aleck McCrae. How's that sult you?"

Harris took his friend's hand in a warm grip. He rightly guessed that McCrae was not bartering his services. for hospitality, but was making it easy for Harris to accept them by appearing to bargain for a service in return. So fliey shook hands together on the side of the bank overlooking the little coulce, and as they looked in each other's eyes Harris realized for the first time that McCrne was radeship came over him-a feeling way of arousing Trollope's ire was to in pennles, nickels and dimes, and a still a young man. A sense of comthat this man was more of a brother suggest that he neglected his post few larger denominations into the than a father. With admiring eyes he looked on McCrne's fine face, his He took, as a matter of fact, an in- was for Jane Crain and he hoped she sique, and the question he asked he put it, he had a passion for letters, more. Others took up the work where sprang from his lips before he could In his autobiography he enumerated the valiant scout led the way, and the

length they rode over a quarter where | Fred and Lillian Arthurs. But Harris was now consumed with a burning energy; he allowed bimself only a precious half day at the home of the Arthurses, bade his wife an affection ate farewell, and, with a cheery goodby to the warm friends on the home stend, he was away down the tcall to Emerson.

On arrival at Emerson one of the first men he met was Tom Morrison The two ploneers shook hands warmly, and in a few words Harris told of having selected his claim, waxing enthusiastic over the locality in which his lot was to be cast.

Morrison.

some other fine quarters in the neigh- tion he jumped on the running board borbood, and nothing would be better and rode along for a short distance, dithan to have you on one of them."

good time, although not without diffi boy hopped off the board and refused culty at some points in the road, and the stranger's proffered tip, explainbefore the tenth of April Harris was ing that he was a boy scout, and back under the shelter of Arthurs couldn't take pay for a simple good roof. He was for pressing on alone in turn. Nothing new in this for a the morning, but he found that his scout. wife had made all her plans to ac- country has been in a similar position, company him and would listen neither behaved just as this boy did, and kept to persuasion nor reason.

shelter, and no neighbors-nothing but the same, and just the kind of in-

she answered. "If you have to rough man who benefited by this one scout's It in the open you at least deserve little act of courtesy, had to say about your meals cooked for you, and such it afterward when he told the story ; other help as a woman can give. 1 really must be with you. I really boy to stick to his principles and remust, John, and you know-I'm go fuse the lure of gold is certainly a Ing."

So at last he consented. The supplies of provisions were increased, and together they set out to wrestle their fortunes from the wilderness.

On arrival at the homestead the young wife immediately gave evidence that she intended to hear her full everyday duty as a good scout and share of the pioneer's duties. A comparatively dry spot was found among scout fashion. the little poplars, and here she built a tent with blankets and a bit of rag carpet that came in most hanly for such purposes. Their stove was set up, and although it smoked stubbornly for lack of draught, it furnished heat for cooking, and when Jack returned from tethering the horses the smell of frying ham and hot tea struck

his nostrils. "Well, that's better than rustling for myself, I will admit," he said.

"Be it ever so humble-"

CTO BE CONTINUEDO

Inventor of the Letter-Box.

The inventor of the letter-box was Anthony Trollope, the novelist, who was a surveyor of the post office, in wherever he went. England, from 1841 to his retirement from the service in 1867. One sure ed task and at night brought \$11.70 office work for the sake of his novels, newspaper office, announcing that it tense pride in his official work, or, as and her family wouldn't suffer any various benefits for which the public little family was relieved of its worst



UNCONSCIOUS ADVERTISING

In New Brunswick, N. J., a boy scout noticed that a man was driving "I must get out there myself," said a car, and obviously a stranger, who seemed in doubt as to his proper di-"Do," Harris urged. "There are rection. Accordingly without hesitarecting the driver to his destination. The west-bound trip was made in The service being duly rendered, the Nearly every scout in the still about it afterward, just as this "But, Mary, there's no house, and no boy did. But it is fine scouting, all sky and grass as far as you can see.' cident that makes scouting count all "All the more reason I should go," along the line. This is what the "An organization that influences a strong one which deserves all public support."

So much for the effect of one small good turn upon public opinion, and the best of it was the scout who did it wasn't thinking about influencing public opinion. He was just doing his making no fuss about it at all, in good

A SCOUT IS A FRIEND.

Frederick Hall of Troop 15, Bridgeport, Conn., proved himself a true scout last winter by coming to the aid of a young girl who was battling against great odds in trying to feed, clothe and keep a roof over the heads of herself and her four young brothers and sisters. Scout Hall, who sells newspapers, read, as did many other citizens of Bridgeport, the story in the morning paper of Jane Cram's, difficulties but he didn't stop with reading and saying "Dear me, what a pity!" He got busy in a practical way. He cut the story from the newspaper, pasted it on a cardbeard box, cut a slot in the box and started out, on a house-tohouse campaign, showing the story

* A

"All day he kept at his self-appoint-



the Taking!"

was required in the selection of a prairie farm than he had supposed. and he congratulated himself upon having fallen in with so experienced a pininsman as McCrae,

"This is good enough for me," said Harris at length, as their horses crested a little elevation from which the prairie stretched away in all directions, smooth as a table. "Isn't it magnificent! And all free for the tak-

"It's pretty to look at," said Mc-Crae, "but I guess you didn't come west for scenery, did you?"

"Well, what's the matter with it? Look at that grass. If the soll wasn't all right it wouldn't grow native crops like that, would it?"

"The soil's all right," answered Mc-Crae. "Nothing better anywhere, an' you can plow 160 acres to every quarday is the world. Today is-Opporter section. But this is in the frost belt. They get it every August-some-

times July. We've got to get further west yet, into the higher land of the Turtle mountain slopes, I know there's good stuff there that hasn't been taken."

And so they pressed on, until, in the bright sunshine, the blue line of the Turtle mountain lay like a lake on the western horizon.

Many times in their explorations they passed over sections that Harris would have accepted, but McCrae ob-

prest it.

"Why don't you get married, Mac?" had cause to be grateful to him, First plight, "Who, me?" said McCrae, laughing; came the arrangement by which the but Harris detected a tone in his people living in little villages could voice that was not all happiness, and the thought came to him that Mc- and early rural delivery, and the put-Crae's craving for hospitality might fing up of pillar or letter-collecting legal committee of the Hartford root deeper than he supposed.

"It's a long ride to the lands office," continued McCrae, "an' you can't file a corner post an' make sure of the number of this section, an' put as much | Jersey." road behind us as we can tonight."

After filing at the land office Harris It has been estimated that the Engreturned at once to the Arthurs' home-Hsh language possesses 75,000 more stend. The news that the Harrises were to be neighbors within 40 miles words than the French, German and was received with enthusiasm by both | Spanish languages combined.

All That Has Gone Before Is Past and

the Future is Clouded With

Uncertainty.

day is work. Today is play. Today is

Yesterday is no problem-for it is

isn't here. Today is supremacy, To-

Crowd in upon it then, Today-take

hold upon its faintest chance. Spread

your smiles-Today. Be game-To-

Today is Time and Change doing Its

job. Are you a vital part of the play?

day. Be glad and great-Today.

Today is the day-your day.

no Today.

life.

tunity!

day. For this Today will never dawn ngain !-- George Matthew Adams in Good Housekeeping.

Words! Words!

You make the citizen by giving him intelligence. He must learn to see thing, and aren't anybody, and do things as they are. He must also learn nothing-why, then, for you there is to see the possibilities and rise in power to put them to the test. There For Today is music. Today is art. is no place for the coward in the march Today is literature. Today is joy. To- of progress. We need men, "brave men, who dare while others fly." And this means they must have brains and brawn with which to fight life's buttles past. Tomorrow is no problem-for it and hold their own in the world. And to intelligence we must add constancy It avails little to be brilliant if you haven't the power to stick to your job until you ninke a success of it. Persistence will help you win, when you \$1,000. put your head to work. These are the first things in the making of citizens. The home and the school must work together to produce it .- Grit.

No Lack.

Today you may start out all anew. Today you may put to use what you always so many people looking for as was their Master. The greatest learned a day ago. The center of your trouble and so many people finding it, sermon ever preached was not dellyentire life may revolve about-Today. But, above all things, do not fearthere seems to be always enough trou- ered in a temple, but from a moun-Today. And let all worry slide. All ble to keep everybody who desires it tain side."-Daniel Carter Beard, Na-

LEGACIES FOR BOY SCOUTS. buy postage stamps; secondly, the free

The following letter was sent by the boxes. Of that accommodation he (Conn.) council to all the lawyers in says: "In the streets and ways of the city:

England I was the originator, having "The Hartford Council, Boy Scouts minute too soon. We'd better find a however, got the authority for the of America, Inc., has to date been crection of the first at St. Heller, in the recipient of two bequests. We are a Connecticut corporation without capital stock and empowered to receive bequests, hold property, etc. It is probable that you, as an attorney, will be requested at times to suggest to clients who are making their wills the name of a worthy charitable or philanthropic movement which is in need of an endowment, and in this connection we feel that the Boy Scouts of America deserves your indorsement."

The national council of the Boy Scouts of America from time to time receives notification of bequests in wills, and it is gratifying that the movement is receiving this kind of endowment.

TEXAS SCOUTS ARE IN LUCK.

W. C. Clark, a business man of Paris, Tex., has presented to the boy scouts of the city a tract of 14 acres to be used by them exclusively. It adjoins a tract two miles west of town that was made a gift to the boys by Messrs, W. A. and Wortham Collins for the establishment of a hut. Mr. Clark made a gift to the scouts of a gymnasium equipment costing

WISDOM OF A FAMOUS SCOUT.

"The great men in this country were all outdoor men. Not only that, but 20 centuries ago the 12 men we hear In spite of the fact that there are so much about were all outdoor men, tional Scout_Commissioner.

Today is what you have. It is also Making a Citizen. what you are. And again, Today is what you do. And if you haven't any-

MAKE THE MOST OF TODAY too. Work and help and love-To-