Bellefonte, Pa., March 14, 1890.

RELINQUISHED HIS CLAIM.

A Story of the Oklahoma Boom.

BY J. H. RICHIE.

States and Territories, that personage and you will be sure to lose it." familiarly known among the settlers as a claim jumper has never been very popular among his neighbors. But my experience with the Claim-Jumper was quite different from the usual experi-ences of those who have met with but that I hoped to come out all right them in contesting the right to a claim when the land department was made on the broad prairies of the West.

an Eastern State, I sold my effects for a few hundred dollars, and some time before the 22d of April, a day memorable in the history of Oklahoma Terri-tory, I set out an horse-back for the Indian creek, forming quite a little bottom, or Territory and arrived on the border of valley, which was covered with a although her father and brother had

Selecting a camping place in a coting busily engaged in cutting poles and ling me on the day before the opening ton-wood grove on the banks of a small stream that enters the northern border concluding that I would need a stock of that she should contest the claim on of Oklahoma, I pitched the little tent I supplies, I started to Guthrie to do the ground that I had been in Oklahohad brought along, and went into camp to wait the time when that great struggle to get possession of a quarter section of land should take place, and in absence a small pole cabin had been aware of the friendship that had sprung which thousands of hardy pioneers were doomed to disappointment by finding rode up to the door of the cabin, which I to know it was our new found friend? themselves a little too late. As soon as I had placed my camp in proper or-der, and partaken of a lunch of dried beef, cheese and crackers, I set out afoot up the creek to see if I could discover any other campers. About two hundred yards from my camp, a ravine came down to the creek, and as I went down into it, I saw a covered wagon and stood thinking for a while considerable refinement, considerable refinement, considering the array of toilet articles to be seen. I closed the door and file on the claim, and I will abandon it." down into it, I saw a covered wagon and stood thinking for a while, and and carriage just a short distance above finally it occurred to me that the perme. Seeing several men and women son who built the cabin might not have around the camp, I concluded to walk been aware that I occupied the quarter up there and have a chat with them. section, as my camp was at a very iso-The party consisted of an old lady and lated place, and I concluded to post a gentleman and their two sons and a notice on the door, informing the claim gentleman and their two sons and a daughter, who was apparently about 22 years old. I found the family to be very intelligent and far above the average "Boomers" in point of traveling equipment. After remaining at the camp some time the men folks had occasion to leave to lariat their ponies on the grass, and obeying the old man's indice on the door, informing the claim to that particular quarter section. This done I is ticular quarter section. This done I is ticular quarter section. This done I is ticular quarter section. They welcomed me very warmally, but thier surprise was great when it did not go back for several days to see if my contestant had relinquished the claim he had jumped, or not, but having business that called me to found the grass, and obeying the old man's Guthrie. I went there again. I finished the brave young lady, and it is not any the grass, and obeying the old man's Guthrie, I went there again. I finished the brave young lady, and it is not any injunction to remain until their return, my business, and to my surprise I found more than the truth to say that I spent I engaged in a conversation with the on returning, the following notice writ- a sleepless night, and once more that daughter, whom I found to be very intended in a delicate hand, posted on my telligent, and possessing a face that for door. beauty I thought I had never seen the equal. Although I had arrived at an age at which bachelors are generally supposed to be impervious to cupid's darts, I had to confess to myself before I had remained an hour that I was desperately in love with the black-eved.

To the person who built this cabin:

"Do you not know, sir, that the fact, which I can prove, that you were in Oklahoma before the 22d debars you from acquiring a title to this claim? If you do not you should read the President's proclamation. I have come to stay, and you may as well vacate for I mean to hold this claim."

(Signed) desperately in love with the black-eyed beauty, and I was well satisfied that my feelings toward her were reciprocalove at first sight, and I went back to enough to make my blood boil, and I often remarks that she hopes that she camp that evening feeling that life had decided to use more stringent measures a new charm for me. It had been my to oust the Claim Jumper. Accordingly intention to camp very near the line of I rode over to the cabin next night, and Oklahoma, and I supposed that I was finding it empty I proceeded to tear it on the outside of the dead line. The next day, April 21st, I rambled up the rection. Then I went back to camp, creek a few miles in quest of game, and discovered several camps of "Boomers" ging a well. On the following day, making active preparations for the final concluding that it might be well to see race to occur on the morrow. It was if any attempt had been made to remy intention to visit the camp of my build the cabin, I went out on the prair that my pony had broken his lariat that the Claim Jumper was at least a finally had to give it up for that night and there was no answer. Then I said and after tying my pony to a shrub on in load tones. the bank of a ravine, I lay down on time which I did sleep was disturbed by man and this is the only chance of account of the events of the morrow, it at all hazards.' I might never have the pleasure of ed my camp to wait the coming hour before the 22d, gave me no little uneasiness; but I decided to run my chances "I say, stranger, if you will not come ness; but I decided to run my chances and possibly the land department out I will tear this cabin down over would, under the peculiar circumstan- your head.' ces under which I labored, grant me

dreams of peace were not long to re-

main undisturbed. About a week after I had located my claim a young man came riding up in front of my tent, and after a friendly greeting he inquired of me if I was not crossed the line into Oklahoma before the 22d while hunting it. I was, as it were, thunderstruck by these remarks, but before I could reply he resumed:

"I was satisfied you were the man." I cried, "is that you. Miss Wallack?" and I staggard. the man who had lost a pony and had "I was satisfied you were the man when I saw that black pony of yours and you are very unlucky, for some-

Fearing that this might be his errand now, I asked him if he had been lucky enough to secure a claim, to which he replied he had. Then I told acquainted with the circumstances. Having been engaged in farming in After talking a little while longer he mounted his horse, saying that he was did not know it was I." going to Guthrie to file on his claim. I had located my tent on the north side of the claim, which ran down to the was that she had come West, resolved

Oklahoma several days before the time set for the opening of the lands.

Solecting a counting place in a cot in a busile angular place in a cot in a was closed, and after knocking and Now I will go and tell father and moth getting no response, I pushed the door er, and I am sure they will not want open, and, looking in, was surprised to notice how neat everything was. "Evidently," said I to myself, "this person "No, you won't do any such thing,"

(Signed) "THE PARTY LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE." new acquaintances again that evening, but upon arriving at my camp I found was the cabin rebuilt. I began to think rope and ran away. Fearing that the determined person, and intended to 22d might find me without a horse to make his word good as stated in the make the race, by which I hoped to secure one of those beautiful homesteads which is always supposed to be paign which I intended to keep up all just a little way ahead, I set out in hot summer. So back to my own cabin I pursuit of my pony, and succeeded in went, and arming myself with a Winfinding him some four or five miles chester rifle and an axe, I set out for away from camp. In my haste to find the cabin on the south side, determined my pony I had taken no note of the di- to demolish it or die in the attempt. As rection I had taken no hote of the di-rection I had taken, only following the pony's trail through the tall grass, and at sun-set, which occurred before I had gone more than a mile from where I fully watched the cabin to see if any had found the pony, I suddenly real- person would leave it, but no one was ized that I was horelessly lost. Re- to be seen. Arriving at the cabin door solved, however, to get back to camp, I I knocked several times but receiving traveled around for several hours, but no reply I called loudly several times

"This is my claim, and I will not althe grass to await the coming of day-light. It is needless to say that I slept and I want you to come out and we but very little that night, and that little | will settle the matter. I am a poor dreams of a pair of black eyes and the curing a homestead at present, and be sound of a bewitching voice which, on ing here first I am determined to hold

Although these were brave words I hearing again. Morning came, and I felt a sense of fear on finishing them. awoke and mounted my pony and rode How did I know but what I was talk-rapidly in the direction of a fringe of ing to some reckless desperado who timber that I knew bordered the banks might be glad of this chance to fill me of the creek on which I had first pitch- with lead. After waiting several moments without any reply, my courage for starting. Although it had been unintentional on my part, yet the fact that the occupant of the cabin was as that I had actually been in Oklahoma, big a coward as I was, and was trying after the President's proclamation, and a game of bluff. With this thought in

Not a move could I hear inside, and exemption from the operation of that no one answered me. I then went section of the law that prevented a per- around to the south side, and found son acquiring title to lands in Oklaho- that it had been carelessly built, and ma who entered that territory after the that with the aid of a pole I could pry issuing of the proclamation and before off the root, and then tumble the whole the 22d day of April. Anyway, I con-structure over. So I placed a pole in cluded to make the attempt to secure position, and began to pry on it. a homestead, for if I did not try it I roof slipped a little and I was about to would be sure not to get one. Taking bear my weight on the pole again, these views, I joined in the race, with the result that on the morning of the Surely, I thought, the Claim Jumper 23d I found myself the proud possessor has a family, and after this I laid my of one of the finest quarter sections of pole down and went around to the door.

land in Oklahoma. After given it a I said thorough inspection I was greatly elat-"Ma "Madam, please tell your husband, as ed to know that I was the only person he seems very deaf, to come out, as I laying claim to it, although other claims wish to make him understand me. near by had as many as a half dozen have no intention of doing any one claimants, and I was glad to know that personal injury."

There was protound silence for a mo no other person was aware of the pe culiar embarrassing circumstances in ment, and then I heard the woman which I was placed. However, my say: "There is no man here, and if

you enter I will shoot you !" "Then where may I see your hus band?" I asked.

At this question I heard her laughing to herself; then she said: "I have jumped this claim myself."

"Great heavens!" I replied, "come "In heavens name," I cried, "is that you, Miss Wallack?" and I staggered

back against the wall almost speechless, for there in the door, revolver in In the settlement of our Western body will be sure to jump your claim hand, stood the young lady I had so before. After my emotion had subsided, I advanced to meet her with outstretched hands. "I sincerely beg your pardon, Miss

Wallack, for my terrible rudeness and I am sure you will now always hate "You have my pardon," she answer-

ed, taking my proffered hand. "You A smile lit up her countenance as

she, "for we can divided it. I will go over to my parents, who live about two miles from here, and tell them whose claim I jumped."

I offered to accompany her, and, as she accepted, we walked to her father's fair face and those laughing black eyes haunted my dreams.

I made frequent visits to Mr. Walwithin two months after the opening of Oklahoma, a newly wedded couple This was all there was of it. No moved into the double log cabin, Miss erson's name was attached, but it was | Wallack having become my wife. She will be as successful keeping house as she proved to be as a claim jumper.

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DMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE .-Letters of administration on the estate of C. C. Meyer, deceased late of Harristownship, having been granted to the undersigned, he requests all persons knowing them selves indebted to said estate to make payment and those having claims to present them duly anthenticate for settlement.

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A DMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—
Letters of administration on the estate of Nancy Cochran, late of Ferguson township, deceased, having this day been granted to the undersigned, by the Register of Wills in and for Centre county, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same duly authenticated for settlement.

CHARLES SNYDER,
35-7-6t*
Administrator,

Administrator, Atty's A UDITOR'S NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given that the undersigned an auditor appointed by the Orphan's Court of Centre county to make distribution of the balance in the hands of Geo. P. Hull, Administration of &c., of the Estate of Fredrick Harpster deceased will meet the parties interested, at his office in Bellefonte on Wednesday the 19th day of March A.D. 1890 at 10 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of his appointment. When and where all parties interested must present their claims or be debarred from coming in on said fund.

said fund. J. C. HARPER. 35-9-3t.

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A PPLICATION FOR INCORPORATION.—Notice is hereby given
that an application will be made to the Hon. A.
O. Furst, President Judge of the Court of Common Please of Centre county, on the 24th day
of March, A. D. 1890, for the charter of a corporation, to be called the Kreamersville Town
Hall Association, the character and object of
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cultivate the desire for social and literary improvement.

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