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FRITZ'S RANCH.

A BOOK FOR BOYS.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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IF every poor boy were as fortunate as Fritz in having a kind and generous uncle at the West, then doubtless many more boys would take Horace Greeley's famous advice, "Go West, young man." Of course Fritz was much helped by his uncle, and had it not been for that help he could not have succeeded as well as he did. But, after all, it was Fritz's own honesty, truthfulness, and perseverance that enabled him to make his ranch a success. These characteristics will always win friends, and at least a measure of prosperity, East or West.

But no boy need expect to go West and pick up bright new silver dollars on the broad prairie. He must work hard for what he gets; the best part of the going there is the work that is waiting for willing hands, old or young, to do. In that respect the West differs from the East, and that gives point to Horace Greeley's advice. To the poor boy that is willing to work, even though he has no friends to stand by him, we would insist that the West offers better inducements than the crowded Eastern city.

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# FRITZ'S RANCH.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE LETTER.

THE postman looked bewildered. He had been carrying letters two years, but never before had he tried to deliver one in Sunset Alley. People who lived there were not of the kind to write or receive letters very often. But there was the address written as plainly as need be:

MRS. BARBARA FAHNESTOCK,  
No. 25½, Third floor, back room,  
Sunset Alley,  
St. Louis.

The trouble was that the numbers on the doors skipped around in such a confusing way. He had found No. 20 with little trouble. No. 20 was the last house in an old, dilapidated, tumble-down block. But the next block was new, and