FAIRVIEW BOYS ON A RANCH, OR, RIDING WITH THE COWBOYS

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Fairview Boys on a Ranch, or, Riding with the Cowboys by Frederick Gordon

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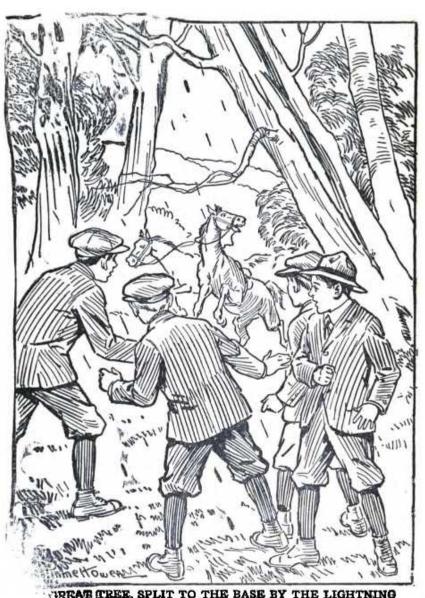
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FREDERICK GORDON

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PREAT TREE, SPLIT TO THE BASE BY THE LIGHTNING

See page 19

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OR

RIDING WITH THE COWBOYS

BY

FREDERICK GORDON pseud.

Author of "fairview boys afloat and ashore," "fairview boys and their rivals," "fairview boys at camp mystery," etc.

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By FREDERICK GORDON

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FAIRVIEW BOYS ON A RANCH Or, Riding with the Cowboys

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Fairview Boys on a Ranch

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FAIRVIEW BOYS ON A RANCH

OR

RIDING WITH THE COWBOYS

CHAPTER I

GREAT NEWS

"SAY, boys, this is the best ever! We've got a chance to go out on a ranch and play cowboys!"

It was Frank Haven who spoke, and if he had hoped that his words would make a sensation he was not disappointed.

Sammy Brown jumped as though he had been shot, and Bob Bouncer almost choked on a sandwich he was eating. Part of it went down the wrong way, and his chums had to give him a good thumping on the back before he was himself again.

Then he and Sammy backed Frank up into a corner.

"Now, say that again and say it slow," commanded Sammy.

"And no fooling, mind," added Bob. "Give it to us straight."

"Who's fooling?" asked Frank indignantly. "You're a nice one to say that, Bob Bouncer, when you're playing tricks on everybody around you all the time!"

"That's right," agreed Sammy. "Who was it that slipped that crab between the sheets the other night?"

Bob tried to look innocent but it was not a great success.

"He could have climbed there himself, couldn't he?" he

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ventured weakly. "But never mind about the crab," he went on hurriedly, as he saw the look on his companions' faces. "Go ahead, Frank, and tell us what you meant when you were talking about cowboys."

Frank shook before their eyes a letter that he held open in his hand.

"It's from my brother George," he explained. "It came in the first mail this morning."

Then he paused and pretended to read the letter over again, watching, out of the corner of his eye, his companions fairly dancing with impatience.

"What are you so slow about?" wailed Sammy.

"Get a move on!" Bob fairly shouted.

"What's your hurry?" drawled Frank, as he pretended to puzzle over the writing.

"I guess I can make it out," he said at last, hopefully.

"Of course you can make it out," fretted Sammy, wild with impatience.

"You didn't have any trouble reading it before," grumbled Bob, suspiciously.

"This light isn't any too good," remarked Frank, squinting up his eyes.

This was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

Bob reached over and snatched the letter out of Frank's hands, and together with Sammy ran over to a large rock near the shore of the cove, with Frank in hot pursuit.

Bob and Sammy reached the goal first and dodged around, keeping the rock between themselves and Frank as the latter tried to recover his letter.

"Oh, come, fellows, that isn't fair," protested Frank. "It's my letter, you know. Hand it over."

"We'll read it for you first," chuckled Sammy.

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