

RANCH LIFE IN SOUTH-WESTERN ARIZONA.

(Continued.)

The ranches vary in number of buildings from the one-roomed shanty and little corral of the small rancher to the great houses and outbuildings of the large proprietors and companies. The "doby" houses, made of sun-dried bricks as their name indicates, are perhaps the most comfortable dwelling places to be found, their thick walls serving equally well to exclude the cold of winter and the heat of summer. In some places may still be seen, now long disused, the first abode of the settler, namely, the "dugout," an excavation in the side of a hill roofed over and walled in on the open side, large enough to admit a bed and other necessary articles of furniture. The corral, an inseparable adjunct to a ranch, used for herding cattle, is made of heavy logs with their ends sunk deep in the ground and their tops bound securely with saplings and rawhide, making altogether a fence of great strength and height.

Large tracts of country called the "ranges" separate different ranches from each other. As these ranges are not fenced in, the cattle mix up and move away with those of other proprietors and render branding and earmarking absolutely necessary. Hence it happens that ranches are designated by their principal brands, and we hear of the Turkey Track ranch, The Firehooks ranch, etc. To bring back the stray cattle and to brand the "crops" of newly born calves semi-yearly round ups are held in May and September. When a ranchman decides to have one he notifies his neighbors within a radius of ten or fifteen miles to that effect. It is to everybody's interest to attend, as they will without doubt find some of their own cattle which need to be branded and driven home. Accordingly, on the day appointed, fourteen or fifteen cowboys, each with a train of four or five spare horses, gallop up to the ranch and dismount. They are met by the owner and told off into groups of two or three each to drive the cattle in from all parts of the range. It may be evening before all the herds are gathered in, and in that case it is neces-