## THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE WHW.

ROSERTS RINEHART ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROYWHITERY

SYNOPSIS.

Miss intest spinster and guardian of Gertrude and Hulsey, established summer headquartiers at Sunstyaide. Amidst numerous difficulties the servants deserted as Miss lines looked up for the night she was startled by a dark figure on the verands. Uniseemly noises disturbed her doring the night in the morning Missinnes found a strange link cuff-button in a hamper. Gertrude and Halsey arrived with Jack Balley. The house was awakened by a revolver shot and Arnold Armotomy was found shot to death in the hall. Miss lines found Holsey's revolver on the lawn. He and Jack Balley had disappeared. The fink cuff-button mysteriously disappeared I secretive Jamieson arrived. Gertrude revealed she was engaged to Jack Balley with whom she taiked in the billiard room a few moments before the murder. Jamieson accused Miss linnes of histing back evidence. He imprisoned as intruder in an empty town. The transver encount down.

CHAPTER XVI.-Continued.

"I was not sleeping well," she begun, "partly, I think, because I had slept during the afternoon. Liddy brought me some hot milk at ten o'clock and I slept until 12. Then I had we not ourselves heard the rap- side, as there had been an accident

heard from Arneld since the-since I above us, for all the world like any He was met by Mr. Jarvis, who took saw him that night at the lodge. I other staircase. would rap and I would go down and let him in I thought be had come fore," he said, as he put the memo- self-inflicted, but with difficulty, and the room and out into the hall. I got

put on my dressing nown. If it was

Arnold, I knew I must see him.

of course, I knew my way. I felt along for the stair-rail, and went down as quickly as I could. The knocking had stopped, and I was afraid I was too inte. I got to the foot of the staircase and over to the door on to the anothing but that it was Arnold seed! was black; it was perfectly dark out-I felt very queer and shaky. Then I thought perhaps Arnold had used his key; he did-strange things sometimes, and I turned around. Just thought I heard some one coming. in the dark, and I could scarcely stand. I got up as fur as the third or fourth step; then I felt that some one was coming toward me on the met mine on the stair-rall. Some one broshed just me, and ! screamed Then I must have fainted."

That was Louise's story. There was in trouble enough as it was in trouble enough as it was. thing that made it inexpressibly awful to me was that the poor girl had crept down to answer the summons of a brother who would never need her kindly offices again. Twice, now, withtered the house by means of the east cuse—to recall to the reader the strong was murdered? Or a fourth, me one in the clothes chute?

buthe and dress, leaving Louise little the coroner. the worse for her experience. But I Gertrude and I sat well back, with no way of finding out, and the inquest lamp, had accompanied Mr. Bailey to



"My Home Is in Englewood," the Doo tor Began.

wake ted and -1 got to thinking about ping noises, I should have felt that there, and Mr. Arnold Armstrong had over Sunday." though and worrying so I could not Louise's imagination had run away been shot. He dressed hastily, gathwith her. The outer door was closed ered up some instruments, and drove I was wondering why I had not and locked, and the staircase curved to Sunnyside.

tack to see me-I didn't think about random carefully away. We found there had been no weapon found. the time, for his hours were always nothing at all in the house, and I exerratic. But I was afraid I was too pected little from any examination of but he hesitated and cleared his wenk to get down the stairs. The the porch and grounds. But as we throat knocking kept up, and just as I was opened the outer door something fell "Mr Coroner," he said, "at the risk come to the club for Mr. Bailey." a cue from the billiard room

Halsey picked it up with an excla-

"That's careless enough," he said. "Some of the servants have been

amusing themselves I was far from convinced. Not one of the servants would go into that wing at night unless driven by dire necessity. And a billiard cue! As a weapon of either offense or defense it was an absurdity, unless one ac-I reached the door. It was unlocked cepted Liddy's hypothesis of a ghost. and opened about an inch. Everything and even then, as Halsey pointed out, a billiard-playing ghost would be a very modern evolution of an ancient

That afternoon we. Gertrude, Halsey and I, attended the coroner's in summoned also, it transpiring that in that early Sunday morning, when Gertrude and I had gone to our rooms he had been called to view the body We went, the four of us, in the mastaircase. The next instant a hand to the matinee train, with half of Casanova staring at us. And on the way we decided to say nothing of Louise and her interview with her stenbrother the night he died. The girl

CHAPTER XVII.

A Hint of Scandal

out apparent cause, some one had en- at the inquest, I have only one exentrance; had apparently gone his events of the night of Arnold Armway aphindered through the house strong's murder. Many things had and gone out again as he had entered occurred which were not brought out Had this unknown visitor been there at the inquest and some things were told there that were new to me. Al- I have tried to trace them and failed." together, it was a gloomy affair, and the time Mr. Jamieson had locked the six men in the corner, who constituted the coroner's jury, were evi-Sleep was impossible I think for dently the merest puppets in the Walker. Could the veiled woman be until the automobile had been ready. any of us. We dispersed finally to hands of that all-powerful gentlemen, the Nina Carrington of the message?

determined that before the day was our veils down. There were a num- was proceeding. er she must know the true state of ber of people I knew: Barbara Pitzaffairs. Another decision I made, and bugh, in extravagant mourning—she clan came next. The post-mortem ex- stead of going at once to her room, put it into execution immediately always went into black on the slight- amination showed that the bullet had she had gone back to the billiard er breakfast. I had one of the est provocation, because it was becom- entered the chest in the fourth left room for something which had been used bedrooms in the east wing, ing-and Mr. Jarvis, the man who intercostal space and had taken an left there. The cardroom and billiard ack along the small corridor, pre- had come over from the Greenwood oblique course downward and back- room were in darkness. She had sed for occupancy, and from that club the night of the murder. Mr. ward, piercing both the heart and groped around, found the article she the gardener, slept Harton was there, too, looking im- lungs. The left lung was collapsed, was looking for, and was on the point One man in that barn of a patient as the inquest dragged, but and the exit point of the ball had been of returning to her room, when she was an absurdity, with things alive to every particle of evidence. found in the muscles of the back to had heard some one fumbling at the

There was no evidence of message was from a Mr. Jarvis, who the foot of a staircase, it was probthing unusual the night before, and asked him to come at once to Sunny- able that the shot had been fired by

him at once to the east wing. There, was afraid he was III, be Halsey, who had never taken seri- just as he had fallen, was the body of cause he was to have done ously my account of the night Liddy Arnold Armstrong. There was no something for me and he had not and I were there alone, was grave need of the instruments; the man was that the Traders' bank had been come back. It must have been three enough now. He examined the panel- dead. In answer to the coroner's wrecked?" when I heard some one rapping. I ing of the wainscoting above and be- question-no, the body had not been sat up and listened, to be quite sure. low the stairs, evidently looking for a moved, save to turn it over. It lay and the rapping kept up. I was causecret door, and suddenly there flashed at the foot of the circular staircase. tions, and I was about to call Laddy into my mind the recollection of a Yes, he believed death had been in-Then suddenly I thought I knew what scrap of paper that Mr. Jamieson had stantaneous. The body was still someft was. The east extrance and circu-found among Arnold Armstrong's ef- what warm and rigor mortis had not lar staircase were always used by fects. As nearly as possible 1 re- set in. It occurred late in cases of Armold when he was out late, and peated its contents to him, while Hall sudden death. No, he believed the He rapped at the east door, and I ad-\*constitues, when he forgot his key, he sey took them down in a note-book. | probability of suicide might be elim-"I wish you had told me this be inated; the wounds could have been

about to call Laddy, she can through into the entry with a clatter. It was of taking up valuable time, I would like to speak of an incident that may or may not throw some light on this | ier.' matter."

The audience was alert at once. "Kindly proceed, doctor," the coroner said

"My home is in Englewood, two miles from Casanova," the doctor began. "In the absence of Dr. Walker, a number of Casanova people have been consulting me. A month agofive weeks, to be exact-a woman whom I had never seen came to my office. She was in deep mourning and kept her veil down, and she brought for examination a child, a boy of six. The little fellow was ill: it looked like typhoid, and the mother was frantic. She wanted a permit to admit the her lorgnon. youngster to the Children's hospital in town here, where I am a member of the staff, and I gave her one. The incident would have escaped me, but Bailey came down across the lawn, or a curious thing. Two days before Mr. Armstrong was shot, I was sent car on the road." for to go to the Country club; some one had been struck with a golf-ball that had gone wild. It was late when the house? I left-I was on foot, and about a mile from the club, on the Clayburg road. day evening for the first time. met two people. They were disputing violently, and I had no difficulty in recognizing Mr. Armstrong. The woman, beyond doubt, was the one who had consulted me about the child." At this hint of scandal, Mrs. Ogden Fitghugh sat up very straight. Jamieon was looking slightly skeptical,

and the coroner made a note. "The Children's hospital, you say, doctor?" he asked.

tered as Lucien Wallace, was taken or her manner, but poor Gertrude's away by his mother two weeks ago. testimony was the reverse of comgram sent to Louise by some one Armstrong had gone. She had waited signed F. L. W.-presumably Dr. in the billiard room with Mr. Bailey But it was only idle speculation. I had foot of the staircase, and, taking a

gening all the time, and I must say From a corner Mr. Jamieson was the left of the spinal column. It was lock at the east outer door. She had Alex was as unobjectionable as watching the proceedings intently. improbable that such a wound had thought it was probably her brother, Dr. Stewart was called first. His been self-inflicted, and its oblique and had been about to go to the door, The next morning, also, Halsey and evidence was told briefly, and amount- downward course pointed to the fact when she heard it open. Almost immade an exhaustive examination of ed to this: On the Sunday morning that the shot had been fired from mediately there was a shot, and she ircular staircase, the small entry previous, at a quarter before five, he above. In other words, as the mur- had run panic-stricken through the its foot, and the cardroom opening had been called to the telephone. The dered man had been found dead at drawing room and had roused the

> died and duly appeared before Saint the saint.

"'Why, Saint Peter, I am John S.

"And then?" "I took the car along the lower road. not to disturb the household. Mr. through the hedge, and got into the

"Then you know nothing of Mr. Armstrong's movements after he left

"Nothing. I read of his death Mon-"Mr. Bailey did not see him on his

vay across the lawn?" "I think not. If he had seen him

he would have spoken of it." "Thank you. That is all. Miss Gertrude Innes."

Gertrude's replies were fully as concise as Halsey's. Mrs. Fitzhugh subjected her to a close inspection, commencing with her hat and ending with her shoes. I flatter myself she found "Yes. But the child, who was en- nothing wrong with either her gown forting. She had been summoned, All at once I remembered the tele she said, by her brother, after Mr. Then she had locked the door at the the main entrance of the house, and The report of the coroner's physi- had watched him cross the lawn. In-

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

"'Why didn't you do like her?" said

'Well, Saint Peter. I was always so worn out from business on Sunday that I had to play golf to avoid getting neuritis, and, anyhow, I understood that if Mrs. Nicholson went to church regularly it would do for both of us.' "Your wife,' said the saint, 'was a

It is a large job to be dry nurse to all the Latin-American republics.

## DR. WILSON FOR GOVERNOR



some one higher up on the stairs.

There were no marks of powder. The

bullet, a 38 caliber, had been found in

the dead man's clothing, and was

Mr. Jarvis was called next, but his

testimony amounted to little. He had

been summoned by telephone to Sun-

nyside, had come over at once with

the steward and Mr. Winthrop, at

present out of town. They had been

admitted by the housekeeper, and had

found the body lying at the foot of

the staircase. He had made a search

for a weapon, but there was none

around. The outer entry door in the

east wing had been unfastened and

I had been growing more and more

nervous. When the coroner called

Mr. John Bailey, the room was filled

with suppressed excitement. Mr.

Jamieson went forward and spoke a

few words to the coroner, who nodded.

"Mr. Innes," the coroner said, "will

you tell under what circumstances you saw Mr. Arnold Armstrong the

"I saw him first at the Country

stopped there with my automobile for

playing cards. When I saw him there he was coming out of the cardroom

"The nature of the discussion-

"The situation was unpleasant,"

"Mr. Bailey and I talked in the bil-

"And Mr. Arnold Armstrong came

"Yes. He came about half-past two.

The silence in the room was in-

tense. Mr. Jamieson's eyes never left

"Will you tell us the nature of his

"He brought a telegram that had

"Perfectly, at that time. Not earl-

"Was not his apparent friendliness

"About five minutes. Then he left

"We talked for a few minutes, dis-

cussing a plan Mr. Bailey had in

mind. Then I went to the stables,

where I kept my car, and got it out."

"Leaving Mr. Bailey alone in the

Mrs. Ogden Fitzhugh had the cour-

age to turn and eye Gertrude through

a change from his former attitude?"

"Yes. I did not understand it."

"How long did he stay"

by the east entrance."

billiard room?"

"What occurred then"

"My sister was there."

talking to Mr. John Bailey."

was it amicable?"

would be blows?"

Halsev's face.

"He was sober?"

errand?"

Halsey said evasively.

"What occurred next?"

there, while you were talking?"

Halsey hesitated.

was open about an inch

Then Halsey was called.

night he died?"

shown to the jury.

That the scholar in politics is to be a factor in American public life has been prophesied, and to some degree exemplified, for several years. But for the first time in the history of the republic the head of a leading university has been offered the nomination for governor of a state and has signified his willingness to become the candidate.

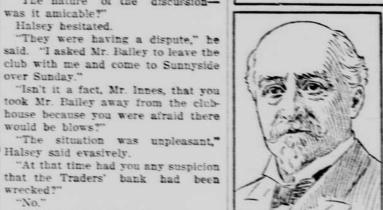
Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton university, is both a scholar and a politician, in the higher sense of the latter word. He knows life not only from books, but he has been a practising lawyer, and in various ways has come more into touch with the great public of working men and women, probably, than any other head of an American institution of learning.

To the observer of politics who is not "on the inside," as an expressive phrase puts it, the proposed nomination of Doctor Wilson, so far as the press dispatches have reported it, may be a provocative of mild curiosity. It is said in the dispatches that Doctor Wilson has been told he can have the nomination, by "a dozen or more prominent New Jersey

Democrats at the Lawyers' club in Manhattan." A previous dispatch has informed the public that Doctor Wilson is to be the Democratic candidate for president of the United States in 1912, "if a combination of Wall street and political interests can make him so." In both announcements there is nothing relating to the wishes or the feelings of the great common people who are supposed to compose the Democratic party. Yet the selection of President Wilson very possibly may meet the enthusiastic approval of the voters of the Democratic party, when the question of fitness is considered.

President Wilson's strongest interests, it is said by those who know him well, are in government and politics. This, perhaps, is natural to him as a Virginian, for that commonwealth has been the mother of statesmen since the foundation of the republic. In coilege debates and essays he showed his bent club," Halsey said quietly. He was sarly. He learned early also the value of being a good public speaker, and rather pale, but very composed. "I assiduously practised until he became a ready debater and an accomplished prator. Later he learned to speak with grace and fluency on post-prandial gasolene. Mr. Armstrong had been occasions.

### IS FATHER OF AVIATION



The real father of aviation is Octave Chanute, an engineer of distinction, who is now in Paris, after having submitted to a serious operation. He has had an interesting career. Born in Paris in 1832, he came to this country with his father in 1839 and studied engineering. His first and the most important appointment that he ever received was that of chief engineer of the Elevated Railroad Company of New York, founded in 1865.

Mr. Chanute drew up the plans of the famous elevateds up Third, Sixth and Ninth avenues. which, at their opening to traffic in 1875, were considered marvels of engineering skill, and which for the last 35 years, have been of incalculable advantage to the uptown population of New York city. This vast enterprise took up all his time for ten years.

It was not until 1890 that his thoughts were directed toward navigation of the air. It was then that the experiments of Lilienthal and Vercher attracted his attention, and the monoplane gliders which they used appeared to him out of the proper equilibrium. He thereupon set to work experimenting, himself in 1891, and 1892 with his son.

The gliders they used were biplanes, and this is the only invention that he claims in aviation. He says that it seemed to him just as simple to try to fly with two superimposed planes as with a single one, and the stability would be immensely increased. The idea was very simple, indeed, but somebody had

Thus at the age of sixty, in company with his son, he began to practise flying without a motor. Later on, of course, it was realized that light motors were absolutely necessary.

Chanute, who was then well advanced in years-he is now 78-tired of the erimental work and turned over his apparatus to the Wright brothers. They followed along the lines he had laid down and he kept in touch with at once the purest and the happiest their work constantly It was to his early experiments and afterwards in all nature; the child tongue is a through his advice that they succeeded in making a flying machine—the first transfiguring power." which ever made a free flight with a passenger.

## MAJ. CARSON GOES ABROAD



Maj. John M. Carson, chief of the bureau of manufactures of the department of commerce and abor, who has been selected to go abroad to look nto the general trade conditions and opportunities for American manufactures, up to the time of his appointment as chief of the bureau of manufactures in 1902 by President Roosevelt, was one of the ablest newspaper men of the Washington eyes shining, baby cheeks glowing, contingent and chief of the Washington bureau. created after the consolidation of the Philadelphia Times and the Philadelphia Ledger.

He was the first president and one of the founders of the Gridiron club and again its president in 1905. He is also a member of the Army and Navy club and the Military Order of the Loy- swer, the suggested lesson being utal Legion. He began his newspaper career as a terly ignored. "It means just the "devil" in a printing office in his teens and after-

ward became a compositor. Later he served as a newspaper reporter. From May, 1861, until June, 1864, he was an officer of the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment. After the war he resumed newspaper work in Philadelphia until 1873, when he became night editor of the National Republican, not in the abstract, but as applying in this city. In 1874 he established a connection with the New York Times to domestic happiness. "What do you and the Philadelphia Ledger as their correspondent in Washington.

in 1877 he became chief of the Philadelphia Times bureau, and remained gument you ever heard?" one back in that position until 1882, when he again became the manager of the Phila- elor asked a married man. delphia Ledger bureau, which position he held until the consolidation of the two papers in 1902, when he became chief of the Washington bureau.

When William D. Kelley was chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, Major Carson was its clerk, and in that that—and never will be."-Youth's position assisted in the formation of the tariff bill of 1883 and the McKinley | Campanion.

His reputation is national and the esteem and regard in which he is held

Albertus H. Baldwin, who succeeded Major Carson as chief of the bureau of manufactures, is a native of Connecticut, an artist of some ability, and for merly was connected with the bureau of fisheries. His experience and valuable services secured him the appointment of chief clerk of the census a few months ago, from which place he was promoted to be chief clerk of the denartment of commerce and labor, vice Theodore L. Weed, who was made chief clerk of the postoffice department.

## BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT HERE



The visit of President-Elect Hermes Fonesca of Brazii to this country affords an opportunity, according to American diplomats, for solidifying the friendly relations now existing between the two

The program for his entertainment, as arranged by Charge d'Affaires Silva of the Brazilian embassy in Washington and representatives of the state department, included a visit to Beverly, the summer home of President Taft and to Valley Forge, Pa., the summer home of Secretary of State Knox. Receptions in honor of the distinguished visitor were placed on the program for New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Washington and Pittsburg.

It was the desire of the nation's guest to study the enterprises of these and other big cities. On account of his own accomplishments in military organization it was planned to take the Brazilian to West Point and Annapolis to inspect the army and

It was expected, when the plans were made, that the conferences to be had with President Taft and Secretary Knox would be fruitful of much good bearing on the relations between Brazil and the United States, and it was hoped in diplomatic circles that they would result in the United States having

as a powerful ally in South American affairs, the republic of Brazil

Misplaced Reticence. A Queer Case.

"I used a nom de plume in my litrary work instead of disguising my

"When are they to be married?" "She doesn't know. She is worrier

"That's a new one on me. I though a girl worried when she wasn't quite Nebraska Directory

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## 'PLAY WITH THE CHILDREN'

Fabled Fountain of Youth Could Not Be More Potent Than Association With Little Ones.

"Play with the children!" was the recurrent advice of a wise and successful man. "This will keep your heart young, your viewpoint fresh,

Something of this indulhtable nower attaches to good stories of those naive and innocent "little ones" scripturally declared specially blessed and potent. The child mind transforms, the child touch lifts to glad laughter incidents and accidents not otherwise worth noting. Witness this little tale of the careful mother to whom came a tiny son all agog over the acquirement of

new and forbidden knowledge "do you know what 'I'll be hornswog-

gled' means?" "No. dear," said the mother, solemply, seizing the opportunity to implant a lesson. "I'm sure I do not."

"Well, I do," was the ecstatic ansame as 'I'll be gol-darned!"

They were talking about arguments, think is the most unanswerable ar-

"That's very easy," he replied. "When your wife says: "If they can afford it, we can,' there is no flaw in

Literary Note. "Do you think that poets should

"I don't know about that. But they should be very careful about composing love letters unless they intend to."

## Hungry Little

a bowl of toothsome

**Folks** find delightful satisfaction in

# **Toasties**

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Let the youngters have Post Toasties superb sum-

"The Memory Lingers"

Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum Cereal Co., Limited.

## Carried Out to the Finish

Astonished Him at the Gates of Heaven.

ob A. Riis, the brilliant writer any more than our churchgoing-and, to a reporter in New York:

al Application of Husband's idea from Columbia, for instance, shouldn't hesitate to play with my college settlement team. "We can't do our charity by proxy

social reformer, said the other you know, the churchgoer story. "There was once a man who never good New Year's resolution attended church, thinking that his with the poor. A football team his own omission. Well, the man to the poor.'

Peter at the gate of paradise. "'Who are you?" the saint asked.

Nicholson of Chicago. I thought of course you knew me.' "No, I don't know you, said the saint

olson's husband—the charitable Mrs. Nicholson, don't you know, who went be for us all to get in closer wife's regular attendance made up for regularly to church and was so kind

true faithful Christian. She came to "But, Saint Peter, I am Mrs. Nich- these gates four years ago, and she went in-for both of you."

identity in my love letters."

"It was a great mistake," sighed the man who was sued for breach of

because she is not quite sure of her