

THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROY WITTEBY

Miss Louise, speaker and guardian of Gertrude and Halsey, established a new rule for the servants. The servants were to be on duty until they were told to go to bed. The rule was that any servant who was found asleep in the hall, Miss Louise would send Miss Armstrong to the kitchen to make a cake. The rule was that any servant who was found asleep in the hall, Miss Louise would send Miss Armstrong to the kitchen to make a cake. The rule was that any servant who was found asleep in the hall, Miss Louise would send Miss Armstrong to the kitchen to make a cake.

CHAPTER XXV.—Continued.

"He is so dear to me as he is to you," she said sadly. "I tried to warn him." "Nonsense!" I said as briskly as I could. "We are making a lot of trouble out of something perhaps very small. Halsey was probably late—he is always late. Any moment we may hear the car coming up the road."

CHAPTER XXVI.

Halsey's Disappearance.

Mr. Jamieson came back about eight o'clock the next morning. He was dressed with care, and his hat was new. Altogether we were a looking trim that gathered around a breakfast table on one could say. Over a cup of coffee the detective told me what he had learned of Halsey's movements the night before. Up to a certain point the car had made it was enough to follow him. And I explained that Mr. Burns, the other detective, had followed a similar car for miles at dawn, only to find it was a touring car on an errand of duty.

"He left here about ten minutes after eight," Mr. Jamieson said. "He went alone, at 8:20 he stopped at Dr. Walker's. I went to the doctor's about midnight, but he had been called out on a case, and had not come back at four o'clock. From the doctor's it seems Mr. Innes walked across the lawn to the cottage Mrs. Armstrong and her daughter have taken. Mrs. Armstrong had retired, and he said perhaps a dozen words to Miss Louise. She will not say what they were, but the girl evidently suspects what has occurred. That is, she suspects foul play, but she doesn't know of what nature. Then, apparently, he started directly for the station. Along somewhere in the dark stretch between Carl street and the depot he evidently swerved suddenly—perhaps some one in the road—and went full into the side of a freight. We found it there last night.



Miss Armstrong is Very Ill and Unable to See Any One.

course of action. I am not one to turn back. Warner drove me; he was plainly disgusted, and he steered the livery horse as he would the Dragon Fly, feeling uneasily with his left foot for the clutch, and working his right elbow at an imaginary horn every time a dog got in the way.

Warner had something on his mind, and after we had turned into the road he voiced it.

"Miss Innes," he said, "I overheard a part of a conversation yesterday that I didn't understand. It wasn't my business to understand it, for that matter. But I've been thinking all day that I'd better tell you yesterday afternoon, while you and Miss Gertrude were out driving. I had got the car in some sort of shape again after the fire, and I went to the library to call Mr. Innes to see it. I went into the living room, where Miss Liddy said he was, and half-way across the library I heard him talking to some one. He seemed to be walking up and down, and he was in a rage. I can tell you."



"Tell her it is Miss Innes, and that it is a matter of the greatest importance."

"It would be of no use. Miss Innes, my orders are positive."

At that moment a heavy step sounded on the stairs. Past the maid's white-shouldered I could see a familiar that of gray hair, and in a moment I was face to face with Dr. Stewart. He was very grave, and his customary geniality was tinged with restraint.

"You are the very woman I want to see," he said promptly. "Send away your trap, and let me drive you home. What is this about your nephew?"

"He has disappeared, doctor. Not only that, but there is every evidence that he has been either abducted or—"

"Well," I said, "if she knows that, she knows more. She is a very cruel and ungrateful girl."

"She is a very sick girl," he said gravely. "Neither you nor I can judge her until we know everything. Both she and her mother are ghosts of their former selves. Under all this, these two sudden deaths, this bank robbery, the invasions at Sunnyside and Halsey's disappearance, there is some mystery that, mark my words, will come out some day. And when it does, we shall find Louise Armstrong a victim."

of his hat and coat and washes his face and hands and sits down to his simple but hearty evening meal with out fuss and feathers; he is the real king. This His Majesty, the American Citizen, and the millionaire in his palace envies him.

The hominess of the bungalow is the reason why so many of them are being built. The house is not the home. It is only the frame of the home, the tangible expression of it. If there is affection and congenial spirit inside the bungalow is sufficient in its simplicity and sincerity. If there must be show and ostentation to cover up unhappiness then take to the mansion and the palace.

Gertrude.

of the house and grounds. Mr. Jamieson, they said, had arranged for more to assist in the search for the missing man, and at that time the country was being scoured in all directions.

The household staff was again depleted that afternoon. Liddy was waiting to tell me that the new cook had gone, bag and baggage, without waiting to be paid. No one had admitted the visitor whom Warner had heard in the library, unless, possibly, the missing cook. Again I was working in a circle.



(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Well Matched by Milliner

King Midas Found for Once That All Things Did Not Always Come His Way.

With a nonchalant air King Midas allowed himself to be led upon a shopping expedition for a new hat for the queen.

THE AMERICAN HOME

W-A. RADFORD
EDITOR

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 28 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

rules and a place as near heaven as we can get and still be on earth.

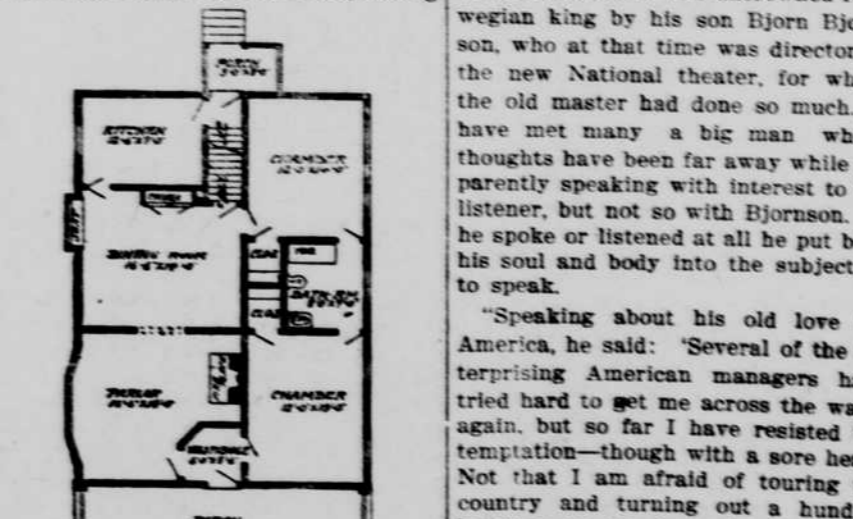
The bungalow we show here has a charm about it. The simple fact that it is that it is homely and gives the impression of simplicity and comfort. An abundance of light is offered from other windows about the structure. This bungalow is 31 feet wide and 40 feet long. All the rooms are on one floor and there are no stairs to climb. This fact will appeal to the housekeeper who has to take many steps up and down stairs during the day. Yet there is no crowding and the rooms are arranged with the special idea of convenience. As a matter of fact, any house should be planned first with the view of ease in taking care of the house work. The house should be planned from the inside and not from the outside. There is a good-sized parlor opening off the vestibule and back of this is the dining and living room. The kitchen is back of the dining room and here a cupboard can be provided in lieu of a pantry. There are two chambers and the bathroom is conveniently located between them.



Bjornson's Idea of America

"A Dangerous Stepmother—Rich and Beautiful," Said the Gifted Norwegian.

Bjornson lectured in America in 1880, and has always had friends and admirers in this country. Bernard Stahl, who has lately published in New York a translation of "Wise Knut," one of Bjornson's most charac-



teristic tales, gives an interesting account of his last meeting with the master in Christiania in 1902, says Current Literature. The occasion was a birthday banquet held in honor of Bjornson's seventieth anniversary.

There were two main tables. At the head of one sat the guest of honor, at the other Nansen, recently returned from his memorable trip to the north. "Many a merry jest," Mr. Stahl records, "flew from one table to another, and though it might be difficult, at a glance, to tell which of the two giants looked the younger, it was easy enough to determine which of the two swords best sharpest. The author had the reader wit."

You will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps, with perfect sweetness, the independence of solitude.—Emerson.

She Was a Big Fighter.

Mrs. Benham—Do you remember when I had my coming out?
Benham—No; but it must have been like the launching of a battleship.

PUZZLED

Hard Work, Sometimes, to Raise Children.

Children's taste is oftentimes more accurate, in selecting the right kind of food to fit the body, than that of adults. Nature works more accurately through the children.

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WISE WILLIE.

The Nurse—The doctor brought the baby yesterday morning.

Willie (aged 6)—Better not forget where the doctor lives.

The Nurse—Why?

Willie—"Cause if the baby needs a hand or a leg, you'll have to get new parts for him, won't you."

True Independence.

You will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps, with perfect sweetness, the independence of solitude.—Emerson.

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Children's taste is oftentimes more accurate, in selecting the right kind of food to fit the body, than that of adults. Nature works more accurately through the children.

A Brooklyn lady says: "Our little boy had long been troubled with weak digestion. We could never persuade him to take more than one taste of any kind of cereal food. He was a weak little chap and we were puzzled to know what to feed him on."

"One lucky day we tried Grape-Nuts. Well, you never saw a child eat with such a relish, and it did me good to see him. From that day on it seemed as though we could almost see him grow. He would eat Grape-Nuts for breakfast and supper, and I think he would have liked the food for dinner."

"The difference in his appearance is something wonderful."

"My husband had never fancied cereal foods of any kind, but he became very fond of Grape-Nuts and has been much improved in health since using it."

"We are now a healthy family, and naturally believe in Grape-Nuts."

"A friend has two children who were formerly afflicted with rickets. I was satisfied that the disease was caused by lack of proper nourishment. They showed it. So I urged her to use Grape-Nuts as an experiment and the result was almost magical."

"They continued the food and today both children are well and strong as any children in this city, and, of course, my friend is a firm believer in Grape-Nuts for she has the evidence before her eyes every day."

Read "The Road to Wellville," found in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They're genuine, true, and full of human interest.