THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE THE MERICAN

BYMARY ROSERTS RINEHART ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROYWATERS

SYNOPSIS.

that littles, spinster and guardian of circule and Halsey, established summer edigitariers at Sumpyside. The servants sert. Gertrude and Halsey arrive with a littley. The house was awakened by trude and Halsey arrive with The house was awakened by shot and Arnold Armstrong shot to death in the hall Miss I there of holding back evidence. He conceil an intruder in an empty room prisoner excaped Gertrude was sused because of an injured foot. Haltengoents and says he and Bailey called away by a telegram Castler of Paul Atmistrong's bank, decrease of Paul Atmistrong's bank, decrease that arrested for embeggiement, armstrong told set that while she still loved him, she to marry another. It developed that Winner was the man. Louise was dut the bottom of the circular stait-Recovering conscionences she sgid Armstrong's marker After gheet Thomas, the bodgekeep found dead with a slip in his aring the name of "Lucien Waller usked Miss Intes to torus of Mrs. Armstrong, A non limping we Halser mysterious

CHAPTER XXV.-Continued.

He's as dear to say as by is to you. she said sadly. "I tried to warn him." Nonsense" I said as briskly as I "We are making a lot of trouble out of something perhaps very small linker was probably late-hesalways late. Any moment we may bear the car coming up the road." But it did not come. After a half simily, and did not come back. I undly knew she was gone until I

ST Jamieson a freight cur on the siding above the should have gone there last night." No. Mr innes was not there.

of o clock the text morning we were under the circumstances." we'd, and there was no word from the ing to marry Dr. Walker.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Halsey's Disappearance. that gathered around a entered. terrise, had followed a similar car won't fit together, unless-unless Mr.

went alone; at 8-20 he stopped at De is, and my brother is not with him " Along somewhere in the dark could." stretch between Carol street and the "Perhaps you are right. In fact, I

We found it there last night." the train by the force of the shock. Greenwood club and through the vil-I said tremulously.

Gertrude shuddered

There was-no sign"

most-anything"

ity office is on the lookcut." The creek? Gertrude asked. be creek is shallow now. If it crushed, but there was no one to be were swollen with rain it would be seen

without warning? None whatever. persisted. "And you were as sure filled eyes.

No but he left it for repairs in shaken to scold. any enemies? Any one who might ly ripping out the offending sleeve.

wish him out of the way." Not that I know of, unless-no, I cannot think of any." Was he in the habit of carrying N. F. C."

never had more than enough for our- and sent for what the Casanova livrent expenses."



"Miss Armstrong Is Very III and Unable to See Any One."

wonted concession to the occasion. | back. Warner drove me; he was board the station back moving off. At | ination. The chances are against livery horse as he would the Dragon school the telephone rang it was flight. If he was hurt, we find no Fly, feeling uneasily with his left foot have found the Dragon Fly, Miss abduction. This young Dr. Walker elbow at an imaginary horn every nes, he said. It has collided with -have you any idea why Mr. Innes time a dog got in the way.

at we shall productly find him Sound said thoughtfully. "I don't think he be voiced it. knew Dr. Walker at all, and-their re- "Miss Innes." he said. "I over-But they did not find him. At lations could hardly have been cordial, heard a part of a conversation yester-

all waiting for news, while Alex Jamieson pricked up his ears, and my business to understand it, for that marked the house and Sam the little by little he drew from us the matter. But I've been thinking all hi daylight I dropped into unfortunate story of Halsey's love af- day that I'd better tell you. Yesterday thrusted sieep. Halsey had not come fair, and the fact that Louise was go afternoon, while you and Miss Ger-

Mr. Jamieson listened attentively was give Altogether we were a sad- ter this house; in fact, it has been you." Witness the incident with brouldnot that no one could eat. Over the cook yesterday. And I have a rup of black roffee the detective new piece of information." He looked old us what he had learned of Hal. carefully away from Gertrude. "Mr. sey a movements the night before Up John Bailey is not at his Knickerto a certain point the car had made it bocker apartments, and I don't know ener enough to follow him And I where he is. It's a hash, that's what gathered that Mr. Burns, the other de- it is. It's a Chinese puzzle. They

for miles at dawn, only to find it was Stalley and your nephew have againa touring car on an endurance run. And once again Gertrude surprised the left here about ten minutes aft. me. "They are not together," she cight," Mr. Jamieson said. "He said bothy, "i-know where Mr. Railey

Walker's. I went to the doctor's "Miss Gertrude," he said, "if you and about midnight, but he had been Miss Louise would only tell me everycalled out on a case, and had not thing you know and surmise about buck at four o'clock. From the this business, I should be able to to a disctor's it seems Mr. Innes walked great many things. I believe I could arrows the lawn to the cottage Mrs. find your brother, and I might be able krustrong and her daughter have to-well to do some other things." taken. Mrs. Armstrong had retired, But Gertrude's giance did not falter.

and he said perhaps a dozen words to Nothing that I know could help Was Louise. She will not say what you to find Halsey," she said stubbornthey were, but the girl evidently sus- ly. "I know absolutely as little of his pects what has occurred. That is, she disappearance as you do, and I can empects foul play, but she doesn't only say this: I do not trust Dr. know of what nature. Then appar. Walker. I think he hated Halsey. ently, he started directly for the sta- and he would get rid of him if he

depot he evidently swerved suddenly had some such theory myself. But Dr. -perhaps some one in the road-and Walker went out late last night to a went full into the side of a freight, serious case in Summitville, and is still there. Burns traced him there. "He might have been thrown under. We have made guarded inquiry at the lage. There is absolutely nothing to go on but this: On the embankment We examined every inch of track, above the railroad, at the point where we found the machine, is a small But surely-he can't be-gone!" I house. An old woman and a daughter, cried "Aren't there traces in the who is very lame, live there. They say that they distinctly heard the here is no mud-only dust. There shock when the Dragon Fly hit the has been no rain. And the footpath cur, and they went to the bottom of there is of cinders. Miss innes, I am their garden and looked over. The included to think that he has met with automobile was there; they could see but treatment, in the light of what the lights, and they thought some one has gone before. I do not think he had been injured. It was very dark, has been murdered." I shrank from but they could make out two figures, the word. "Burns is back in the coupstanding together. The women were toy so a ciew we got from the night curious, and, leaving the fence, they therk at the drug store. There will be went back and by a roundabout path two more men here by noon, and the down to the road. When they got there the car was still standing the

offerent. There is hardly any water. The detective went away immedi-Now, Miss Innes," he said, stely, and to Gertrude and me was turnise to me. I must ask you some left the woman's part, to watch and questions. Had Mr. Halsey any pos- wait. By luncheon nothing had been stills reason for going away like this, found, and I was frantic. I went upstairs to Halsey's room finally, from sheer inability to sit across from Ger-"He went away once before," he trude any longer and meet her terror-

Liddy was in my dressing room, susthe did not leave the Bragon Ply piciously red-eyed and trying to put with to settle the bill. temmed into the side of a freight car a right sleeve in a left arm-hole of a new waist for me. I was too much

a blacks with shop, a long distance. What name did that woman in the from here. Do you know if he had kitchen give," she demanded, vicious-

"Bliss. Mattie Bliss," I replied. "Bliss. M. B. Well, that's not what she has on her suitcase. It is marked

The new cook and her initials trou-"He never carried it far. No, he bled me not all. I put on my bonnet eryman called a "stylish turnout." With a lordly air he touched the open umbrella. Dumas had ordered

her of suspense. Louise went out gan to pace the room. It was an un- | course of action, I am not one to turn Then I think we get at it by elim- plainly disgusted, and he steered the trace of him. It looks almost like an for the clutch, and working his right

> Warner had something on his mind. I cannot understand it." Gertrude and after we had turned into the road strong a victim."

day that I didn't understand. It wasn't trude were out driving. I had got the car in some sort of shape again after There are some interesting devel. the fire, and I went to the library to There are some interesting developments here," he said thoughtfully call Mr. Innes to see it. I went into two weeks ago, Liddy and I had seen the living room, where Miss Liddy the strange woman. Not far from the mother of Lucien Wallace has not said he was, and half-way across the west wing lay the blackened ruins of description of the stables. I felt like a ruin myself the stables. I feit like a ruth myself as I paused on the broad veranda be stered with mud, and his har organized attempt being made to en- down, and he was in a rage, I can tell

> The first thing I heard was-excuse me. Miss Innes, but it's what he said, 'The damned rascal,' he said, 'I'll see him in'-well, in hell was i what he said, 'in hell first.' Then somebody else spoke up; it was a woman. She said: I warned them, but they thought I would be afraid." "A woman! Did you wait to see who

"I wasn't spying. Miss Innes," Warner said with dignity. "But the next thing caught my attention. She said: knew there was something wrong rom the start. A man isn't well one day, and dead the next, without some reason. I thought she was speaking of Thomas.

"And you don't know who it was!" I exclaimed. "Warner, you had the key to this whole occurrence in your hands and did not see it!

However, there was nothing to be done. I resolved to make inquiry when I got home, and in the meantime, my present errand absorbed me. This was nothing less than to see Louise Armstrong, and to attempt to drag from her what she knew, or sus- of the house and grounds. Mr. Jamie pected of Halsey's disappearance. son, they said, had arranged for more But here, as in every direction I to assist in the search for the missing turned, I was baffled.

A neat maid answered the bell, but she stood squarely in the doorway, and it was impossible to preserve one's dignity and pass her.

"Miss Armstrong is very ill and unable to see any one," she said. I did not believe her. "And Mrs. Armstrong-is she also

"She is with Miss Louise and cannot be disturbed."



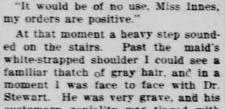
Well Matched by Milliner

Things Did Not Always Come His Wav.

With a nonchalant air King Midas allowed himself to be led upon a shop- returned. ping expedition for a new hat for the

He knew perfectly well that all he had to do was to touch anything handy and convert it into gold where-

hat."



"Tell her it is Miss Innes, and that it is a matter of the greatest impor-

What is this about your nephew?"

"And you think Louise knows some thing?" he said when I had finished. me if he had been heard from, or if allow Walker in the room, and she you come down to dinner. made me promise to see you and tell him. Find him, and find him soon. He is living."

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

judge her until we know everything. and children, he kisses them, takes Knut," one of Bjornson's most charace It is tree. Address 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 Arm-

Then we drove slowly home. I had the doctor put me down at the gate, and I walked to the house-past the lodge where we had found Louise, and, later, poor Thomas; on the drive where I had seen a man watching the lodge and where, later, Rosie had been frightened: past the east entrance. where so short a time before the most obstinate effort had been made to enfore I entered the house.



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 hag 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.)



However, they arrived at the store another until at last she selected a perfectly lovely creation resembling an inverted waste basket surmounted by the ruins of a flower garden.

"That will suit exactly." said King Midas. "And now, my young friend." he said to the saleslady. "I shall show you how to pay millinery bills. Don't bother to tell me the price o fthis

Mr. Jamieson got up then and be- Having once made up my mind to a hat and instantly it became solid gold.

headlight broken and the bonnet King Midas Found for Once That All "Take your change out of that," ordered King Midas. The saleslady took the hat away,

had it assayed and weighed and the value of the gold computed. Then she

more, sir." she demanded.-Chicago Evening Post.

Dumas' Mushrooms.

A Paris contemporary, commenting on the little knowledge of French possessed by some Germans, relates a nd the queen tried on one hat after story of Alexander Dumas (pere). who knew little German. He found himself at an inn in German Switzerland. He exhausted his small stock of German in trying to make the waiter understand what dishes he required for dinner. One he could not make the man understand, so in despair the author of "Monte Cristo" called for a pencil and sketched what he wanted. Some minutes later the innkeeper himself appeared, bearing a large



Mr. William A. Radford will answer rules and a place as near heaven as questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of The bungalow we show here has a ed on the stairs. Past the maid's this paper. On account of his wide expe-white-strapped shoulder I could see a rience as Editor, Author and Manufactit is that it is homey and gives the imfamiliar thatch of gray hair, and in a moment I was face to face with Dr. Stewart. He was very grave, and his 194 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ili., and only bay windows and the arrangement of customary geniality was tinged with enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

see," he said promptly. "Send away low would be short-lived, that it was your trap, and let me drive you home. a fad that would soon die out, but This fact will appeal to the house such has not been the case. More keeper who has to take many steps up "He has disappeared, doctor. Not bungalows have been built this year only that, but there is every evidence than ever before, and it is probable that he has been either abducted or that next year there will be an in--" I could not finish. The doctor crease over the number of this year. helped me into his capacious buggy It is not difficult to find the cause for in silence. Until we had got a little the popularity of the small house. The distance he did not speak; then he bungalow appeals to that instinct in bouse work. The house should be turned and looked at me.

us that yearns for cosiness. That is planned from the inside and not "Now tell me all about it," he said. about all there is to it. Palaces and He heard me through without speak- mansions attract and they are grand. But the human heart warms to the cottage. It is not going without the bounds of truth to say that there is "I don't-in fact, I am sure of it. The probably more real happiness in one best evidence of it is this: She asked bungalow or in one cottage than in a dozen palaces where you have to put anything had been learned. She won't on your dress suit every night before

You take human nature the world you this: don't give up the search for over and it is about the same whether "A Dangerous Stepmother-Rich and it is clothed in full dress or blue jeans. It is safe to say that the Fifth avenue millionaire in New York often dreams of living in a cottage bereft of care and the responsibility of keeping a 1880, and has always had friends and corps of servants from ruining him. admirers in this country. Bernard "She is a very sick girl," he said The man who comes to his bungalow Stahl, who has lately published in gravely. "Neither you nor 1 can at night is met at his door by his wife New York a translation of "Wise-

other windows about the structure. This bungalow is 31 feet wide and 40 It was predicted not so very long You are the very woman I want to ago that the popularity of the bunga- feet long. All the rooms are on one floor and there are no stairs to climb 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 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

Beautiful," Said the Gifted Norwegian.

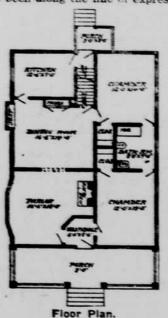
Bjornson lectured in America in



Two private detectives had arrived off his hat and coat and washes his | teristic in my absence, and it was a relief to face and hands and sits down to his count of his last meeting with "the turn over to them the responsibility simple but hearty evening meal with master" in Christiania in 1902, says out fuss and feathers; he is the real Current Literature. The occasion was king. This His Majesty, the American a birthday banquet held in honor of Citizen, and the millionaire in his pal- Bjornson's seventieth anniversary.

ace envies him reason why so many of them ary be the other Nansen, recently returned Ing built. The house is not the home. from his memorable trip to the north. It is only the frame of the home, the "Many a mery jest," Mr. Stahl records, affection and congenial spirit inside though it might be difficult, at a glance, show and ostentation to cover up undetermine which of the two swords happiness then take to the mansion beat sharpest. The author had the and the palace.

Architects have been devoting their time and talents of late years to developing this type of house to its highest perfection, and all their endeavors shake and a cheerful word for all. I have been along the line of expressing



the true home instinct. That is true it," as they say in America, and why? architectural art which develops in On account of too much champagne! tangible form the emotions of the And his eyes sparkled with mirth as huma nheart. The architect, there he emitted a roar of buoyant laughter fore, is now almost telling us the char- 'However, I may risk it,' he continued acter of the man who lives in the seriously, 'I shall have to say many house designed by him. You take the a harsh word to young America. average man who lives in a bungalow though, because she has deprived Nor and you will find he is a home lover. way of her best children, although she That means he is good to his wife and deserves praise for the great opporfamily. They are not on his pay roll. tunities she has given most of them He is one of them and with them. His She is a dangerous stepmother be children have no father, but the man cause she is rich, and beautiful womwho might be the father is to them a en are dangerous through their power sort of elder brother. The wife has over young men.' And again he laughno husband, but a pal. They put in ed. And the 500 guests joined him, "Thirty-eight dollars and 25 cents their Saturday afternoons together in joined him heartily, because his laughthe garden or in sports together. May ter was such that it could set the sun they work together trimming the dancing on the mountain tops in widshrubbery. That is your bungalow winter, and that means much in Norfamily-an ideal existence where love way."

There were two main tables. At the The hominess of the bungalow is the head of one sat the guest of honor, at tangible expression of it. If there is "flew from one table to another; and the bungalow is sufficient in its sim- to tell which of the two giants looked plicity and sincerity. If there must be the younger, it was easy enough to readier wit."

Mr. Stahl's narrative proceeds: "The famous master had a cordial handwas introduced to this uncrowned Norwegian king by his son Bjorn Bjornson, who at that time was director of the new National theater, for which the old master had done so much. I have met many a big man whose thoughts have been far away while apparently speaking with interest to his listener, but not so with Bjornson. If when I had my coming out? he spoke or listened at all he put both his soul and body into the subject so like the launching of a battleship.

"Speaking about his old love for America, he said: 'Several of the enterprising American managers have tried hard to get me across the water again, but so far I have resisted the temptation-though with a sore heart. Not that I am afraid of touring the country and turning out a hundred lectures, no sir; but what I'm afraid of, I am sorry to say, is the hospitality of the American people. Look at Nansen there! He seems quite able-bodied. doesn't he? Well, sir, he had to "beat

The Gaelic A B C.

is represented by a tree. The alphabet of today consists of eighteen letters,-in ancient Gaelic seventeen,and now, as of old, all the letters with the exception of g. t and u. which stand for tvy, furze and heather, are called after trees.

The Gaelic a b c of today runs allm, beite, coll, dur, eagh, fearn, gath, huath, logh, luis, muin, nuin, oiv, equivalent to saying: elm, birch, the social pants.

hazel, oak, aspen, alder, ivy, white-Every letter in the Gaelic alphabet thorn, lew, rowan or quicken, vine. ash, spindle-tree, pine, elder, willow, furze, heath.

> In the ancient Gaelic alphabet the letter h (the huath or whitethorn) does not exist. The alphabet is called the beth-luis-nuin, Lecause b l n, and not a b c, are its first three letters .-

Youth's Companion.

The business of legislators seems to peith, ruis, suil, teine, ur, which is be that of putting new patches upon

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WISE WILLIE.



The Nurse-The doctor brought the baby yesterday morning.

Willie (aged 6)-Better not forgit 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. skeeps, with perfect sweetness, the in dependence of solitude.-Emerson.

She Was a Big Fighter. Mrs. Benham-Do you remember Benham-No: but it must have been

PUZZLED Hard Work, Sometimes, to Raise Children.

Children's taste is ofttimes more ac curate, 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 ce-

real foods of any kind, but he became very fond of Grape-Nuts and has been much improved in health since "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.

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."

"They continued the food and today

Rend "The Road to Wellville," found in pkgs. "There's a Reason." Ever rend the above letter? A one appears from time to time. The tree genuine, true, and full of he