

ON THE HOUSETOP.

By ROBERT BARR.

(Copyright, 1900, by Robert Barr.) Gilbert Strong awoke suddenly. Something was wrong, of that he was certain, but what the something was he had but the vaguest idea.

With her hands as if to shut out any realization of the dizzy height at which she stood, she seemed to be on a square gravel-covered island far above the earth and unconnected with it, or on a very material cloud floating close under the sky.

Gilbert dashed from his bedside to the window, touched the spring blind and it flew to the ceiling. But one glance out and down was needed to tell a New Yorker that the tenth floor of the Zenith building, near Fifth avenue, and above the seventeenth floor there was nothing but the flat roof.

"How lively sweet the air is. It is like life. I never seem to have appreciated the pleasure of mere breathing or mere living before. How long—how long will the fire—how long a time will it last?"

He was paying an exorbitant rent because the Zenith apartment house was fire-proof, but somehow this remembrance brought little consolation to him at the moment he stood by the window.

"You are entirely mistaken, Miss Colburn. There are many chances in our favor. Then why have you made no attempt to let those in the street know we are here on the roof? How can the fire department do anything for us if it thinks every tenant has escaped?"

Gilbert dressed himself speedily, yet with more deliberation than a man might be expected to use in similar circumstances. He was thinking, not of himself, but of another—the occupant of flat 69, his own apartment being numbered 67.

"You can not make them hear?" "Some one may have heard me, and the word will quickly spread that we are on the roof."

"Miss Colburn, come out as quickly as you can, the house is on fire. I am your neighbor, Gilbert Strong."

"Then they will shoot the rope over the house top?" "They will do something, of that I am assured."

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self-conceit. Your women were always charming—a little too good, if anything."

"You mean too good-looking, in truth, they were not alive at all. They were not fixed in my own mind and naturally I could not write convincingly of them so that they might remain for a moment in the reader's recollection."

"Oh, that is quite true to life," said Maud with a laugh.

"Not with the kind of girl I was trying to picture," replied Strong, joining in the merriment of his companion.

"Oh, yes, I would. My estimate would probably be much nearer the truth than yours. We women are said to be severe critics of each other. In reality we are true critics, which a cynical person might say was the same thing."

"What! Don't you like Brooklyn bridge?" "Oh, I detest it. Please go on with your story."

"Do you know many literary people?" "I know one novelist. It is the Lady Superba aware that she is the heroine of your book?"

"I think not."

"Then she can't be very clever. Still, I am doubtless doing her an injustice. She probably knows all about it and plumes herself greatly on the fact to all her friends except you."

"I should be delighted, but I fear you would not do her justice."

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needed to foretell the answer, Gilbert. I hinted that your mythical Lady Superba was too easily won; and now, when I might set her an example of austerity, I find myself following her too compliant lead."

"Almost beyond my hopes and far beyond my deserts."

"He took her willing hands and drew her to him, his kiss lightly touching her forehead, finding its abiding place on her starting lips."

"You are all right," said the man in the helmet. "The fire is out."

"What-what fire?" stammered Gilbert Strong.

"Two of a kind."

Enormous Cost of the Philadelphia City Hall and New York Capitol.

The new city hall at Philadelphia, replaces the Chicago Record, is called the "Penn-Holder," because there is a statue of William Penn on the top of the tower, and

as each contractor was expected to make a contribution to the political war chest he added that amount to the price. There have also been labor regulations on both buildings which have increased the rate of wages paid, reduced the number of hours of labor and added considerably to the cost.

The capitol at Washington has cost thus far about \$16,000,000, with \$5,000,000 more for the construction of the terraces and approaches, which do not pertain to the building proper, but would not have been needed except for its peculiar location at the crest of a hill; but with all the money that has been expended upon the national capitol it has cost \$1,500,000 less than the Philadelphia city hall and \$3,000,000 less than the Albany state house and is larger and finer than either.

The Philadelphia city hall covers an area of 470,000 feet and the tower, including the statue of William Penn, that surmounts it, is 547 feet and 3 inches high, or 7 feet and 7 inches lower than the Washington monument.

A severe sprain will usually disable the injured person for three or four weeks. Many cases have occurred, however, in which a cure has been effected in less than one week by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm.

Negro Labor for Hawaii.

HONOLULU, July 1.—(Via San Francisco, July 10.)—It is to the colored people of the Hawaiian Islands will turn for relief in the matter of the vexed labor question.

John H. King, J. B. Collins of Kona, and others leave today for the southern states in quest of a negro labor force to be recruited at New Orleans. The plantation will pay their expenses as much as the new congressional library. If enough negro labor can be secured the services of the Japanese will be dispensed with altogether.

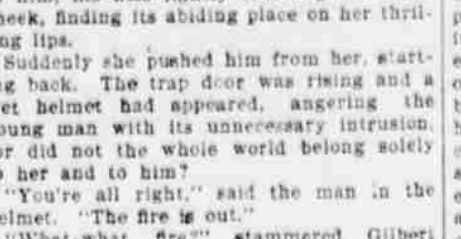
HAPPY WOMEN.

Plenty of Them in Omaha and They Have Good Reason for It.

Wouldn't any woman be happy after years of backache suffering. Days of misery, nights of unrest, the distress of urinary trouble. She finds relief and cure?

Mrs. Michael Tuomey, No. 205 North 15th street, says: "My back often ached so severely that I could hardly stand. I have been at times so that I could scarcely move, and to stoop was an utter impossibility."

WHAT AILS YOUR HAIR? WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS TO KNOW



CRANITONIC MICROSCOPE. Hair needs food to keep it alive. The food should be supplied by the blood.

Upon receipt of this Bee coupon filled out and enclosing a small sample of your hair, we will send you a FREE TRIAL of Cranitonic Hair Food and a cake of Scalp Soap.

NAME, \_\_\_\_\_

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STREET, \_\_\_\_\_

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TEN WESTERN GIRLS

THE TEN most popular girls in this section of the west will take the ten best vacation trips in the country at the expense of The Bee.

Who Are They? Where Do They Live?

THE SEVEN most popular girls in Omaha, Council Bluffs or South Omaha (one to be from Council Bluffs) who earn their own living will be sent on the seven best vacation trips that money could plan, with all expenses paid and free transportation for an escort.

The Best Trips in America.

Rock Island Route. From Omaha to Denver over the Rock Island Route, with three days at the Brown Palace hotel, a day's excursion to Georgetown through the Clear Creek canon, around the Loop, returning to Denver before evening.

Northwestern. Omaha to Chicago via the Northwestern, with a day's stop at the Grand Pacific hotel, Chicago, and a day's stop at the Hotel Victoria at Put-in-Bay.

Union Pacific. Omaha to Salt Lake City via the Union Pacific, ten days at the Hotel Knutsford, Return day to Omaha with three days at the Brown Palace hotel, Chicago, and the Illinois Central to Omaha.

Rules of the Contest.

Class A. The young lady receiving the highest number of votes will have first choice of Class A trips, the next highest second choice, and so on.

Class B. The three trips designated as Class B, will be awarded to the most popular young lady without restriction as follows:

Who is Your Girl?

Votes will be counted when made on a coupon cut from The Omaha Bee and deposited at the Bee business office or mailed addressed, "Vacation Contest Dept., The Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb."

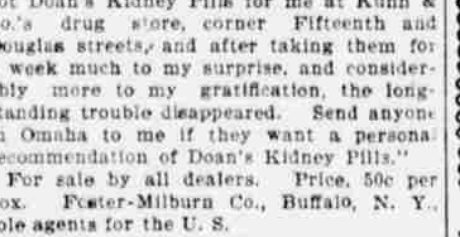
CURE YOURSELF AT HOME

Any one afflicted with Contagious Blood Poison can cure himself perfectly and permanently at home by the use of S. S. S. (Swift's Specific). Our book on Contagious Blood Poison contains a history of the disease in every stage, with full directions for self-treatment.

S. S. S. is Guaranteed Purely Vegetable

Mr. E. L. Hite, of Staunton, Va., had a severe blood disease, and his experience was like all others similarly afflicted. He says: "I was treated by several good doctors, and took various remedies, but they did me no good. I then took S. S. S., and was cured completely, for I have never been troubled with the disease since."

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