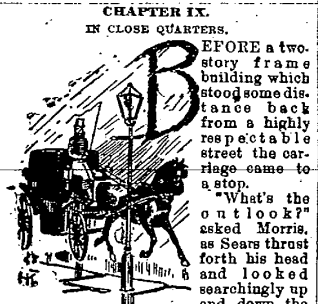


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BERENICE ST. CYR.
A Story of Love, Intrigue, and Crime.
BY DWIGHT BALDWIN

CHAPTER IX.
IN CLOSE QUARTERS.



...Don't be silly. I don't mean to be, and that's the reason, as I told you once before to-night, that I don't propose to be crushed out of my share of the plunder. The speaker rose from his chair, assumed a dogged expression and walked narrowly up and down the room. Then Sears, thoroughly alarmed at the attitude of his confederate, offered arguments to mollify his anger, and allay his really unjust suspicions. "I guess I'm wrong, Al," said the burglar at length, extending his hand. "You're all right, I see that, but I shall keep my eye on Morris. By the way, what in thunder keeps him so long?" "Can't say; he's had time enough to go down town and back. Ha! There he comes now." A rapping on the rear door had interrupted the conversation. In a moment the young man had opened it. "What kept you?" demanded he, reproachfully. "Met some friends; couldn't get away without 'cittin' sp'eciation." The voice of the new arrival was decidedly thick, and his breath strongly scented with liquor. "Mar Morris, I'm astonished!" "Cause I've drank so much an' still sober! Readn't he I'm used to it. I'm a fire-bottler now, I am. Go ahead. You've guessed the whole game. "Nothing of the sort. How's the young fellow?" "No better. Come along." "What's wrong?" asked Bloom, who had heard angry voices, and met them at the door. "See for yourself." "Drunk, as I live! Well, I like liquor as well as the next one, but I wouldn't risk gettin' a noose round my neck just for the fun of bowling up once." "Here, give me that and lie down." With a look of rage and disgust, Sears snatched a package from the hand of the staggering man, and pushed him down upon a sofa, where he lay breathing heavily. "I never knew Max to do such a thing before," said the other, as he tore open the package and displayed two bottles. "We must rely on ourselves, Mart." Thanks to the new restoratives and the assiduous efforts of the two deeply interested men, Cole Winters soon began breathing easier, and in a little while opened his eyes and looked stupidly about him. "Where am I? Ha! you here?" A sight of his hated enemy, Almon Sears, had completed his restoration, and brought our hero to a sitting posture. The form on the sofa started at these words, but settled quietly back into its former cramped position. "Why have you brought me here?" demanded Cole, when no reply was made to his first query. "We changed our minds, and determined to let you live." "I'm much obliged," remarked our hero, with mook politeness. "You doubt it?" "I didn't say so. What do you want?" "To give you a chance for your life." "I will not be likely to accept any conditions you may name." "Yes, you will. Our terms are not hard." "Let me hear them." "You took a bundle of bonds from the box where you concealed yourself to-night." "Well?" "You don't deny it?" "What would be the use?" "Then you took them?" "I didn't say that. I neither affirm nor deny it." "Answer, or make ready for death!" The villain produced and cocked a revolver, which he leveled at Cole Winters' head. "You wouldn't have gone to all the trouble you have to save my life if you proposed to take it now," said he. "That's true," assented Sears, lowering his weapon. "Let's understand each other. I know that you appropriated the bonds. Will you tell me where you se- creted them?" "What if I do?" "Your life will be spared." "I couldn't trust you." "I will so arrange matters that you can have no cause to doubt our good faith." "Those bonds are not mine." "What of that?" "They belong to Miss St. Cyr, and even if I knew where they were, which I do not admit, I would not give them up." "Not to save your life?" "No!" There was a quiet determination in the face of the deeply wronged prisoner which avouched the sincerity of his emphatic negative. "I'll find a way to make you speak." "That is impossible!" "We will see. Keep an eye on him, Mert." With this admonition the youthful villain seated himself at the bookcase and began writing. After having torn up three different notes, which, for some reason, did not seem to suit him, he folded the fourth and inclosed it in an envelope. This done, he called Bloom aside, though at a point where they could prevent their prisoner from escaping, and conversed with him in whispers for some minutes. After this the burglar thrust the note into one of his spacious pockets, donned his overcoat, and quitted the room. For nearly an hour, Cole Winters lay on the bed, closely watched by his jailer, who, pistol in hand, sat near by. As for the drunken man on the sofa, he changed his position once or twice, but his heavy breathing was uninterrupted. Suddenly, the sound of footsteps was heard, and a moment later the door of the room was thrown open and the heavy form of Martin Bloom appeared in view. "Where is he? Does he still live?" came in an agonized voice from behind the burglar. The next instant a female form, fluttering with excitement, rushed into the room. "My God!" cried Cole Winters, in tones of anguish. "It's Berenice St. Cyr."

MODEL SUBURBAN HOME
For \$1,000--Labor Saving Machines Responsible for Cheap Building. [Copyright 1895 by the Co-operative Building Association, N. Y.]

During the last few years the proportion of families who own their own homes has been increased, owing to the multiplication of building and loan associations. It is no longer necessary that a man should be possessed of a snug capital before he can transform himself from a tenant into a householder. There is a mistaken idea very prevalent that a small house that shall be attractive enough for a man of taste cannot be built for less than \$2,000 or \$3,000. Less than half that sum is sufficient if it be judiciously expended. Any amount of money can be squandered in non-essentials and in decorations that are as useless as inartistic. In the main we only require from a house, as from a man, that it perform its duty well and do the things it was intended to in the best way and be pleasing and graceful in doing it. A model home, if it be skillfully planned, can be erected for a surprisingly small sum in these days. The inventiveness of Americans, which has devised all sorts of machines for joining and carpentering to replace the expensive hand work, has made this possible.

Wise men who look to the future are gradually availing themselves of the present conditions. The nearby suburbs of all cities are being built up with inexpensive homes, and the effect will soon be felt in the problem of municipal reform. The assertion does not need proof that the householder is a better citizen, in that he is more keenly alive to the administration of affairs, than the dweller in a rented house. He feels that it is not a mere privilege, but a duty as well, to exercise the franchise and to give keen scrutiny to the acts of public servants; he has a personal interest in the affairs of State—he is a householder and a taxpayer; when he speaks of home—a veritable "home" as distinguished from the rented house—in his eyes he has pictured a pretty cottage something like the one below.

...mate, being left for the individual builder to select. Additional signs of reviving trade and encouraging evidences of improvement are seen in all directions. Since Jan. 1, 1895, up to the present time, the increase in real estate sales

Second Floor

First Floor

To build this house would cost about \$1,050. General dimensions—Width through dining room and kitchen, 23 feet 6 inches; depth, including veranda, 33 feet 6 inches. Heights of stories—Cellar, 6 feet 6 inches; first story, 8 feet, 6 inches; second story, 8 feet. Exterior materials—Foundation, stone and brick; first and second stories, gables and roofs, shingles. Interior finish—Two coat plaster; soft wood flooring, trim and stairs. Interior woodwork painted colors to suit owner. Colors—Body, all shingles dipped and brush coated in oil. Trim painted white. Roof shingles dipped and brush coated red. Sashes painted bronze-green; blinds, Colonial yellow; veranda and porch floors and ceilings, oiled. The principal rooms and their sizes, closets, etc., are shown by the floor plans. Cellar under parlor and hall. Loft floored for storage. Open fireplace in dining room. Double folding doors connect parlor with hall and dining room. Another chimney may be introduced in parlor. The alcove off front bedroom may be partitioned off for a hall bedroom with entrance directly from the hall. A bathroom with a full or partial set of plumbing may be introduced in the second story. The price (\$1,050) is based on New York prices for materials and labor, and in many sections of the country the cost should be less. Mantels, ranges and heaters are not included in the esti-

...Ernie Russell, aged 13, caught a catfish weighing forty pounds on his trout-line, at Buena Vista. The fish had been on a hook years ago, and half the lower jawbone and all the upper one is gone. But the strange thing about the fish is that it is totally blind in both eyes. The eyeballs have run out, and little holes exist where the eyes were. The fish, though presumably blind for years, was fat and in good condition

To Catch Summer Boarders.

Just put it in the paper, and put it so 't'll win. The quick attention kindly O' fo'ks wot's got the tiu.

Thur hain't no fresh made butter Nat new laid eggs each day; Thur vinture o' the lan' escapes Don't stretch in dreams away.

No daisies in the meaders, No dimples, purim fills, No underlin' nuster lan's Arisin' inter hills.

Edid the style last summer— B' gumi they went away, An' left me w' a mort'gage, F'r b' goshi they didn't pay.

—New York Herald.

...To be continued.