

In Spite of the Fortune Teller

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

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When Betty Peyton consented to play the fortune teller at Mrs. Esmond-Ashley's annual garden fete she did so under the supposition that it would be an easy way of passing the time at an affair where she knew nobody and would, in a way, be a means of doing her hostess a favor in return for the repeat great kindness done her.

As she regarded herself in the mirror after an hour's application of all she had learned in the amateur theatricals which had served to pass so many hours of the summer spent in the hills at Simla, she assured herself that her dearest friend would never recognize her. And it would have been like this game which followed, in which she was quite out of it all, watching the maneuvers of Paul and Jean from the sidelines. And little by little she began to regret; first, her impulsive departure, then her prophetic utterances, which apparently he had taken so seriously. For, no doubt, he knew she had gone to avoid his presence at the post and was revelling in his chance to demonstrate how little her repulses troubled him.

Then an odd thing occurred. In Joan's presence Paul invited her to go with him on a yachting party, and although surprised at herself, Betty heard herself accepting. On the evening of the trip she found Paul had drawn two chairs close together in a secluded corner of the stern deck. For a while they sat watching the play of moonlight on the scudding foam of the wake. Then, out of a clear sky, Paul turned to her and said: "You see, Betty, I took your advice about dark ladies!"

So he had known, after all—probably through her aunt!

"Well, I'm sure you found it good!" she managed to answer lightly. "But how did you know it was I?"

"Very easily," returned the man. "Once having seen you in a similar character at an amateur performance in Simla, I could not very well forget your skillful portrayal. Besides, having come several thousand miles in search of you, I was looking for you everywhere, although, feeling myself, as I know you did, that there had been enough outside management in our affairs, I was determined to tell no one my errand."

"But Joan—and your mission!" stammered Betty.

"Joan understands the whole thing and was helping me out—besides, she's engaged, herself!" retorted Paul. "As for the mission, that was a lucky coincidence, I'll admit, but, knowing it was to be sent here, I pulled the wires and got myself appointed!"

There was a moment's silence. Then Paul leaned over and helped himself to the slim hand lying so temptingly near his own. "Aren't you afraid of the fate I foretold?" asked Betty whimsically, but not withdrawing her hand.

"If I am," declared Paul, "I'd rather endure it with you, my darling, than have all the luck in the world without you!" and won for his brave reply the reward it merited.

Great Sturgeon Fishing.

The scene of the sturgeon fishing is at the mouth of the river Volga, where as many as 15,000 sturgeon are sometimes captured in one day. The flesh is salted for use during the numerous fasts enjoyed by the Greek church, but the flesh, though valuable, and resembling veal when roasted in the same way, is not by any means the chief value of the fish. Isinglass and caviare are the two principal products which make the sturgeon so valuable. The air-bladder, when dried and properly prepared, is named isinglass, and this very valuable material used to be annually imported to England from Petrograd in large quantities. Caviare is a preparation from the roe of the female fish. It has a strong, oily, and peculiar flavor, much esteemed by gourmets—at least, after they have become used to it—but not so much approved of by persons of simple tastes. The preparation of these two products gives employment to many thousands of persons.

Lov in a Cottage.

There may be today just as much love in the world as ever, but of the kind the poets are wont to sing of, "love in a cottage," there is certainly a falling off—through lack of the cottage. Yet in some sections reports are that the shortage of houses is acting as a direct incentive to marriage.

The naive explanation is that when there were houses to be had the possession of one was a natural preliminary to wedlock, but that now they are not to be had, no one will think any the less of the newly married couple for establishing themselves in lodgings or in the home of their parents or even their friends.—Desert News.

Knowing Simpson.

"Do you know Simpson?" "I should say I do. I lent him a fiver."

"If you lent him a fiver I should say you don't."

Sure Thing.

"Do you think any member of the plant or tree-kingdom would stick to man if given the choice?"

"I think the dogwood."

She hoped that in the semidarkness he did not observe her sudden pause as she recalled the fact that her hostess' daughter, Joan, was of an exceeding darkness, and Mrs. Esmond-Ashley might naturally not wish to be considered as making a bid for a

tentation to her daughter through the medium of a fortune teller at her own garden party.

But her patron merely gave a grave, "Thank you," and, rising, went his way, leaving Betty wondering how much faith he had in her abilities as a soothsayer.

That night Mrs. Esmond-Ashley congratulated Betty. "You were a tremendous hit—and everybody believed you real. Why, Capt. Paul Brighton, just arrived from India on a mission in which my husband is concerned, says he has seen hundreds like you sitting on the road to Delhi. Incidentally, he's coming to tea tomorrow, and between you and me, I believe he's a bit gone on Joan!"

The following afternoon Betty, in her own character, met quite informally the man between whom and herself she had endeavored to put several contestants. They had shaken hands quite casually, while he remarked with enthusiasm that he had known her for many years. Then he had turned to Joan and asked if she played tennis.

The next month for Betty was much like this game which followed, in which she was quite out of it all, watching the maneuvers of Paul and Jean from the sidelines. And little by little she began to regret; first, her impulsive departure, then her prophetic utterances, which apparently he had taken so seriously. For, no doubt, he knew she had gone to avoid his presence at the post and was revelling in his chance to demonstrate how little her repulses troubled him.

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HOUSE OF MODEST POPULAR LINES

Ideal Dwelling for a Family With Children.

LOW COST IS A FEATURE

Design is Attractive and Has All the Essentials of a Real Home—Has Three Bedrooms and Sleeping Porch.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

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. Address him at 102 W. Main Street, Kankakee, Ill. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and is a member of the Illinois Building Association. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 102 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

To many people the most important considerations in the building of a home are substantial construction and comfort within. They are not keen about a pretentious exterior or some freakish design which will attract attention. Rather, they prefer a house of modest and popular lines, plain in design, but radiating a feature of good old-fashioned comfort. Too often in the construction of a house these fundamental features are overshadowed by the demands of a faddish age and as a result the finished structure is far from attractive and in many cases not at all comfortable or conveniently arranged.

These faults certainly cannot be found in the substantial, modest yet pleasing home shown here. While it is attractive, none of the more essential features of a real home have been sacrificed to gain this effect. It is one of the thousands of houses of the same type that are to be found in all sections of the country. Built of frame with a rough-faced concrete block foundation, a little variety has been gained in the outward appearance by the use of shingles as siding above the first story.

The front porch is wide, open and spacious, adding to the frankness of the whole design. A single door with

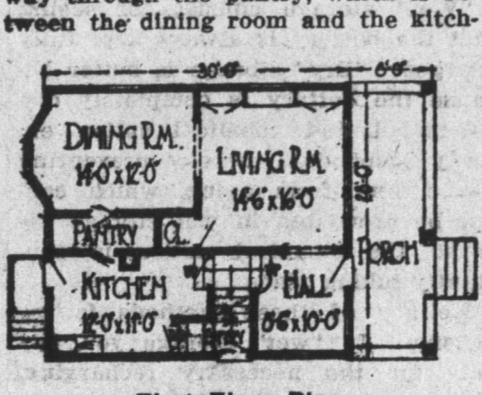


long, narrow panels and small panes above leads the way into the home.

The stern lines have been broken by roof dormers on each side. The house is practically square, being 28 feet wide and 30 feet long, not including the front porch. The advantage of square dimensions have been often emphasized in these columns. This type of house is very economical in cost of construction.

On the first floor are the three living rooms, or more specifically, living room, dining room and kitchen. The front entrance leads into a small hall, which in turn leads into the living room on one side and to the staircase to the floor above. The living room is 14 feet 6 inches by 18 feet, and is fitted with wall bookcases. Windows on two sides provide plenty of light and ventilation. A small closet in one corner provides storage place for clothes.

The dining room is in the rear of the living room and has double exposure, a large bay window of semi-circular shape in the rear and a window on the side. It is 14 by 12 feet. Access to the kitchen is afforded by a passage way through the pantry, which is between the dining room and the kitchen.



This passageway is made possible by two doors opposite each other in the pantry. The kitchen is 12 by 11 feet. A stairway leads from the kitchen to the basement.

Upstairs are the sleeping rooms and a sleeping porch. Three bedrooms and a sleeping porch have been provided for. The bedrooms are all about the same size, each having windows on two sides. It is very important in building a home of this kind or of any other kind, that the bedrooms have plenty of window space through which ventilation can be obtained. The old idea

of no air in the sleeping rooms is now a dead letter. It has been found that plenty of fresh air is very beneficial in sleeping quarters.

For those desiring more ventilation, the sleeping porch can be used very advantageously. Each bedroom is provided with a clothes closet, while one has a large wardrobe.

Today the insistent problem is housing. Solutions have been found for international disputes, national controversies and many other far-reaching problems but as yet none is forthcoming for the most vital problem of all. And as the time passes the situation becomes more acute. There is one

new year's day is a time for thanksgiving and mirth and happiness, and in some countries, for the interchange of gifts. It is also a day which, because it is the beginning of another year in one's life, has associated with it a certain sacredness which often takes the form of resolutions to do more and better things than one has ever done before.

It is appropriate that the series of

12 months should open on the first day of January, because this is the period

of the winter solstice, the turning

point of the year, the time when earth

begins to be revivified in anticipation

of the coming of spring. The ancients

understood this significance and, al-

though several changes in their calen-

dar took place before the present date

was made permanent, January 1st has

been, we are told, the generally ac-

cepted date since the reign of the Ro-

man king Numa Pompilius, 672 B. C.

He decreed that the year should begin

as it now does, and added two new

months to the already existing ten.

The first month was named January

in honor of the god Janus, who was

represented by the Romans as having

two faces, this signifying that he was

acquainted with both past and future

events. On this first day it was the

Roman custom to offer to Janus sacri-

fice upon twelve different altars.

Among the offerings was a cake of

sifted meal with incense and wine.

The people took every precaution to

conduct themselves so perfectly that

nothing but good might be pressed

for the coming year. Latin writers of

the time say that all strife and dif-

ferences ceased at the New Year. The

day was spent in visiting, feasting and

exchanging gifts. Indeed, the burden

of giving had become so heavy that

during the reign of Claudius he felt

it necessary to limit it by a decree.

In Belgium the children are espe-

cially active on New Year's.

Their greatest fun is obtained by secreting

all the keys belonging to the various

doors of the house. Then they hide,

watching, lynx-eyed, from their van-

tage-ground for the chance to lock up

an unsuspecting parent or uncle or

aunt. When once caught they are

freed until they promise a certain for-

feast of sweetmeats.

In France it is called "le jour de

l'an"—the day of the year. Merry-

making, calls and gifts reign supreme.

Dancing, singing and wine also have

prominence. Candy, not usually al-

lowed to French children, is generous-

ly given out, January 1st is also the

day for family reunions. And in the

early morning hours relatives of any

one who has died during the year as-

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