

# THE SUNBEAM

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## EASTERN HOUSE-TOPS.

As the green herb, as the grass on the housetops.—King xix. 26.  
 What ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.—Matt. x. 27  
 They went upon the housetop.—Luke v. 19.  
 Shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.—Luke xii. 3.

The rooms in the houses of Jerusalem have generally roofs of stone, built as a dome: this makes the chamber cool, as the thickness of the stone keeps out the heat of the sun. Besides this, wooden rafters would be very expensive, as wood is so scarce. Many of these domes are seen on the outside of the building, as the main walls are not carried up so high as the arch. In others, the outside walls being carried up higher, they are made level with the dome by a mass of stone work, so that the whole forms a perfectly flat roof, which is sometimes cemented, but more generally paved with slabs of stone, forming a yard, which such a roof may not improperly be called. Some of the parapets around these are of stone, others of pieces of rough pottery, something like draining tiles, open at both ends. These are built up with mortar, the ends being placed outward and inward. The holes of



EASTERN HOUSE-TOP.

and mother of the family sitting on the roof, and perhaps the children playing games, racing in and out along the domes. Flowers in pots are often placed upon the parapets. In the picture a woman is seen watering her flowers upon the housetop. These flat roofs explain the verses quoted above.

## SAFE LITTLE EFFIE.

Suz came bounding down the steps ready for school.

"Come across," called her little friend, Johnnie Bates. "I'll wait for you." Right in front of her were two prancing horses.

"I can't come across the street," said Effie. "till the horses pass."

"O, pooh!" said Johnnie "clip across. You'll have time, the horses are standing still. They don't mean to go on yet. 'Fore I'd be such a coward!"

Down sat Effie plump on the stone step.

"I can't come across till the horses go by, not if they don't go in a week," she said. "My mamma said never to

cross the street alone if there is a horse to be seen, and I'm not going to."

Just then the horses that a man was trying to manage became frightened at a kite some boys were playing with, and

some of them are then covered with plastering, and others left uncovered, so as to form a pattern or design. The wind can pass through the open part, and yet make a shade. At sunset you can see the father