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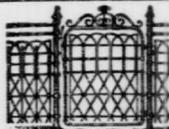
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**Louis Tracy's New Serial**



IT is one of the cheerfulest things to announce that in our next SUNDAY MAGAZINE we shall begin a new serial by Louis Tracy called "The Silent Barrier." That simple statement shouts louder than a whole string of adjectives. It is only necessary to add that this story is worthy of the author of "The Wings of the Morning," "The Pillar of Light," and "The Captain of the Kansas," writing with larger experience and greater development. Not only does Mr. Tracy write rattling good stories, but he has mastered the additional art of making good serials, which keep one eagerly looking for the next instalment. That is the kind everybody likes best, especially the publishers, for it means larger circulation. When circulation is increasing, it shows that the magazine itself is growing, that it is intrinsically better in its reading matter and its illustrations.

THE SILENT BARRIER" is in the front rank of serials our SUNDAY MAGAZINE has published,—and we have a deal of pride in our serials, in fact in all our fiction. The hero is a young American mining engineer in Europe on a six months' holiday, who acts upon a sudden impulse to play the part of fairy godmother to a beautiful English girl whom he overhears express a great desire for a vacation in Switzerland.

THAT sounds quixotic, doesn't it? But the way the novelist tells it makes it seem natural in a fine nature like that of Charles K. Spenser. The only motive of which he is conscious is to make some one else happy. The way he goes about it is particularly ingenious, yet very simple. You see, he is determined to preserve his incognito as a fairy. The complications that develop make it the liveliest kind of romance.

MR. TRACY has that fine art of making us all seem a part of the story. You will feel that we all belong, and that we are on a delightful excursion made doubly interesting by a very absorbing love affair working out under our very eyes. Not the least important is the vast amount of information that seems to slip into the story unawares, just as in "The Wings of the Morning," and when Mr. Tracy gives facts he is as accurate as Baedeker and about a hundred times more picturesque. You will be quite justified in eagerly looking forward to the beginning of "The Silent Barrier."

MAE HARRIS ANSON has shown remarkable skill in collecting fact romances of the most interesting period of life on the American frontier, and "In the Old Buffalo Days," which appears in the next number of our SUNDAY MAGAZINE, is one of the best chapters in what should some day prove a very valuable book. She seems to have a peculiar grasp of the life, to understand and be able to portray its very spirit while adhering to actual facts.

CLIFTON JOHNSON takes a step backward from the time of Lincoln and tells what schools were like in Washington's days, a plain narrative that reminds one of Oscar Wilde's epigram on Wagner's music: "It is so much better than it sounds."

IT makes one smile to think of Shorty McCabe, retired champion pugilist, running up against something so highly intellectual as the New Thought, which is the name for something that is really as modern as Plato. In "Hitting Up the Heights," Shorty tells, in his own joyous way and with his marvelous gift of characterization, how Serena Ann cured Pyramid Gordon; and of course you'll chuckle from start to finish.

THE WINSOME WIZARD," too, will add to the joy of living; for there is related an experience at a county fair that is one of the best of the series.