

"When We All Fly"

IT seems to be getting around to that point, according to William Johnston in our next SUNDAY MAGAZINE. Already some eighty orders have been placed by private individuals for flying machines for pleasure, and aerial navigation has a literature of its own. Of course the frequent flying machine contests make interest in literal high flying exceedingly keen just now. Most of us want to know what has been done and what may be expected. One doesn't have to be very old to remember when the telephone, the automobile, wireless telegraphy and other present day industrial necessities were not so far advanced as the flying machine and the airship are to-day.

OF course anybody with sufficient industry could gather the facts—and there are many that will surprise you, even if you think you have kept abreast of the times,—but it takes real skill to present the facts in a way that is not only impressive, but makes bright, interesting reading.

IT is most extraordinary how two or three facts will profoundly impress us, and how a great many facts just as important will bore us if the writer doesn't know how to present them to the best advantage. It takes a pretty thoroughly trained mind to absorb much exact information at one time. The really clever writer knows this. He begins by collecting all the facts he can get, digesting them thoroughly, and then leaving out as many as he can, making those he presents as significant as possible and explaining their meaning very clearly.

IN this flying machine article Mr. Johnston has eliminated the nonessentials. It is a model of the informative article, because it is really a pleasure to read it, and not a painful duty. At the same time it makes you feel that you know all that is necessary about the "conquest of the air"—one simply can't write about it without using that phrase.

"DON JIMINEZ," by Kathryn Jarboe, is a story that has the charm of novelty. It is really an adventure story, in a Mexican setting, with a wealth of local color that seems real. It is unusually clever in its characterization, because the people are revealed by what they do and say rather than by description.

"WHEN CORNELIA SHOWS SOME CLASS" is a typical Short McCabe story,—plenty of action, amazingly clever satire, pure fun, illuminating slang, and all made sweet and fine by the mink of human kindness. Cornelia was a poor relation who gave up years of her life nursing the elder members of a large family and acting as official mourner for the survivors; but she has her reward. Most of us do, and generally it's more than we have a right to expect. If we were really honest about it, we should wisely add to our daily prayer, "Save me from receiving my just deserts!"

THE next instalment of "In Closed Territory" calls to mind some of the wonderful tales told by oldtime travelers that were unbelievable. There are descriptions of strange beasts, some of them very beautiful, others that are terrible, that never have been classified. There seems to be no doubt about one huge amphibious monster that scared even so old, so fearless, so experienced, a hunter as Jordan half to death. Edgar Beecher Bronson is at his best in this chapter with its rich variety; for it deals also with native characters and customs, including a whipping episode, and with good hunting.

"THE FURNACE OF GOLD" reaches one of the great climatic points in a serial that is mostly climaxes. It includes the taking of Van's claim and his encounter with Matt Barger, the outlaw. They have a fight that is a fight, in which Philip Verrill Mighels lavishes the wealth of his ingenuity. He doesn't give one a chance to draw a long breath.



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