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Editor's Talk

SUMMERTIME and fiction are just about cause and effect. From now until the end of the hot weather most people will worry along with a minimum of facts and a maximum of fiction. We shall do likewise. The present issue is the first of a fiction series to run through the summer. The three short stories in this number have been chosen with particular regard for the interest of folk away from home, traveling or summer-resorting, or camping, or staying at home to look after the domestic regime while the rest of the family are away.

At the same time we have not neglected those facts and human-interest matters which have the engaging quality of fiction. The page of cyclone pictures from Regina; the page of news pictures from the old land; the character-sketch; the regular departments all lightened up to suit a fiction number—all prove that everybody but the editor is able to take a real holiday.

Our new serial will begin in a week or two. The story, "His Little Girl," by Miss Lucy G. Moberly—well, it's the sort of good thing that takes the least amount of sustained mental effort, because it has the art of easy, graphic narrative wedded to the evolution of a romance. "His Little Girl" is an adventure story such as is possible only in a continent like Europe; quite impossible in America. It is the entanglement of a family romance, caused by the international manoeuvres of the man whose little girl becomes the immediate cause of the story. Sir Giles Tredman, a young English officer returning from his regiment in India, finds himself suddenly the guardian of a little girl whose family history is a remarkable complication of adventures. The tracking of these adventures becomes the obsession of Sir Giles Tredman. The lonely child and her mysterious jewel, the abduction, the jilting of Sir Giles by his fiancée, the villain in the case— But this is giving the story away. "His Little Girl" speaks for itself: a grippily interesting piece of domestic fiction with a strong romantic and adventurous turn, which no reader of this paper can afford to miss.

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