

grows into a grasping scoundrel, and her husband, the Broom-Squire, is positively ghoulish in his repulsiveness. It is possible to conceive of Mr. Baring-Gould having such people and plot in imagination, but why he must perpetuate them in book-form is past finding out.

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A Woman Intervenes. By Robert Barr; illustrated by Hal Hurst. New York and London: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

Two young Englishmen, one an expert accountant, the other a mining engineer, make a voyage of inquiry regarding the physical and financial conditions of a Canadian mine. Their report will rouse considerable interest on the New York Stock Exchange, and the managing editor of the New York *Argus* is fired with the ambition to have the substance of it appear in his paper before reaching the eyes of the London Syndicate. To achieve this piece of smart journalism, he employs the talents of his accomplished reporter, Jennie Brewster, a most engaging young woman, skilled in the arts of her sex, and in the tricks of her profession. The story opens in the editor's *sanctum*, when he tells Miss Brewster exactly what he expects of her.

The second chapter finds the young Englishmen aboard the *Caloric*, with the report of their joint labor in full security, and with Miss Brewster as a fellow passenger. The accountant, George Wentworth, whom Miss Brewster selects as her prospective victim, has much against him. There is the novelty of his surroundings, the glamor of the sea, and a habit of mind so strictly honorable as to forbid his entertaining an unworthy thought of a sweet and pretty girl, dowered with a delicious laugh, and a machiavelian simplicity of speech and manner.

Through the lurch of the ship and an exciting collapse of a steamer chair, John Kenyon, Wentworth's colleague, makes the acquaintance of a clever and charming English girl, Edith Longworth. By strange chance, Miss Longworth's father, also a passenger, proves to be a member of the London Syndicate to which the young men are hastening with their report. With this

juxtaposition of the leading people the interest of the story begins at once, is well sustained through subsequent scenes enacted in London drawing-rooms and steadily augments to the climax of a happy *dénouement*.

Mr. Barr's men impress one as being more than usually capable of advancing their own interests, and yet one does not like to think of the disasters they escaped solely because again, and yet again "a woman intervenes." And his heroines (we quite suspect him of having two), are delightful; not perfect by any means, and certainly in neither instance to be considered typical of their respective nations, but wholly unique, quite consistent with their bringing up and altogether lovely.

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The Bicyclers and Three Other Farces.
By John Kendrick Bangs. New York: Harper Brothers.

This dainty volume in blue and gold contains four pieces for parlor theatricals. The first, as the name indicates, is of universal interest, appealing directly to the attention of the three great classes in which humanity is divided—those who achieve bicycles, those who dodge bicycles, and those who have bicycles thrust upon them. In the unfolding of this domestic drama, modestly called a farce, there are many helpful suggestions for the guidance of novices in the ranks of the first division, and the enemy, sub-divided into the two remaining classes, will find much to console him for the unkind fate which as yet withholds the opportunity of deserting his own party and entering that of the execrated and the despised. "A Dramatic Evening" and "The Fatal Message" faithfully present the impromptu devices with which well-meaning people attempt to meet the exigencies of amateur dramatics held in some other body's home. If in this sophisticated age there yet remains a man who contemplates resigning his home to an invasion which might be the envy of the Goths and the Huns, we respectfully urge him to an early perusal of these pages. The fourth and last farce, "A Proposal Under Difficulties," illustrates one of the many terrors of an always terrible undertaking.