

A hero who for years lays his plans with something like a fiendish ingenuity. "The Transformation of Krag" to accomplish the ruin of his wife's father, is the leading figure in the new novel by Eugene P. Lyle, Jr., entitled *The Transformation of Krag*. It was at a party during the week of the graduation exercises of the local high school, that Jim Krag received the insult that he could not forgive. The party was given by Maisie Hacklette, whose father, a vulgar, ignorant, purse-proud man, annoyed at seeing his daughter dancing with young Krag, the son of a dress-maker, falsely tells the young man, before all the other guests, that his mother had once done their family washing and been caught stealing a silver spoon. The way in which Jim Krag systematically goes to work to get his revenge; his almost diabolical scheme for compromising the girl, and leaving no alternative excepting a prompt marriage; his unwearied midnight toil, to perfect himself both as a physician and a mining engineer; his abrupt departure to the interior of Mexico, with Maisie in his company,—all this is told swiftly and in a way to pique curiosity. It took him many months to learn the dialect of the Yaqui Indians, in between his duties as physician to a large company backed by American money; it took far longer to win the trust and friendship of the Yaquis. And all this while he was an intensely unhappy man, because, day by day, he saw more plainly the dawning fear in the eyes of the woman he had learned to love, who gradually had awakened to a knowledge that in some unguessed way he was planning an injury to her father. The sum and substance of his plan was this: there was a legend of a fabulous silver mine, known to the Yaquis alone; the Spaniards once thought they had found the secret of it, but their mine, rich as it was, had quickly worked out. This old, forgotten mine of the Spaniards, Krag rediscovered; the ore remaining in it being almost virgin silver, he easily interested old Hacklette, and induced him to sink the greater part of his fortune in it. Having done

this, he quietly disappeared, and soon the news came that he was dead. Meanwhile he lived secretly among the Yaquis, gradually becoming a person of great importance among them, and always seeking to win from their chief the secret of the lost silver mine. The secret was simple enough: what had happened in some long distant age, was that a convulsion of nature had split the earth open, forming a gaping cañon,—and the missing continuation of the vein of silver was waiting to be discovered in the surface of the cliff on the opposite side of a turbulent river. Krag's revenge was complete; his father-in-law was on the brink of ruin from the failure of the mine, and he himself had untold wealth within his grasp. But a change had come over Krag; he had learned that a man cannot give some of the best years of his life ministering to the physical needs of others without becoming more merciful to his fellow-man. And that is the reason why Krag never consummated his revenge, and also why he could at last look into his wife's eyes and see them free from their former shadow of fear.