# THE BARRIER (LA BARRIERE)

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The Barrier (La Barrière) by René Bazin & Mary D. Frost

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## RENÉ BAZIN & MARY D. FROST

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(LA BARRIÈRE)

BY

### RENÉ BAZIN

AUTHOR OF "THE NUN," "REDEMPTION," "THE COMING HARVEST," "THIE, MY SON," MTC.

TRANSLATED BY

MARY D. FROST

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### THE BARRIER

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On the smooth-shaven lawn of the Westgate-on-Sea Tennis Club where a tournament was in progress, the final match had just begun between a pair of teams, each consisting of four men and as many girls. Team was an appropriate name for these groups of amateurs of the racket and ball, whom society so carefully distinguishes from professionals but who resembled them closely at this moment, not only in the skill and rapidity of their play, but in their complete absorption in the game and in the spirit of comradeship which precluded the slightest hint of gallantry or coquetry between the men and girls. All played alike with an ardour befitting the champions of a long-practised art, with keen pride in a clever stroke on either side, and with an eager emulation far surpassing the mere sense of youthful enjoyment, and preventing all interchange of idle words. At one end of the tennisground, in the shade of a high hedge, a throng of spectators were gathered, mostly women, and including the usual contingent of poor but highborn British spinsters.

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