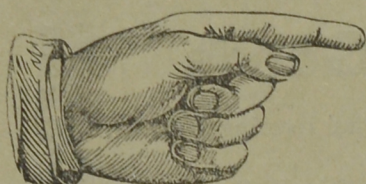


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TREMENDOUS REDUCTIONS will be made for the occasion at our store. We wish to show you that we are the leaders in goods of superior values as well as in low prices.

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Ready-made Clothing, Dry Goods,
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40 cts. ON . . . \$1.00
EVERY

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KERNER'S

New Klondyke.

In Chestnut Building, Fredericton. (Former Stand
American Clothing Store).

KERNER: The Destroyer of High Prices

The Gunmaker Of Moscow

By SYLVANUS COBB, Jr.

[CONTINUED.]

"By Heavens, Savotano, this must not be."

"But tell me, my lord, what is the particular need of the count's departing?"

The duke gazed his visitor a few moments in the face and then said:

"Why, since the affair interests you, I'll tell you. Thus far I have paid you promptly all your dues, but I cannot do so much longer unless we can make some of our points work. My property is on the decrease fast. I have not enough left to live on. Within the past three years I have made some bad ventures. I put it into— But never mind; suffice it for me to say that I am at the end of my fortune."

The duke was about to say that he had placed large sums in the hands of the Minister Gallitzin for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy by which the Princess Sophia was to have been placed upon the throne. With Gallitzin for her

prime minister and himself also high in power. He chose not to tell of this. And no wonder, for heads had ere then been taken to pay for such indiscretions.

"And now if this count survives I thus have one source cut off. My half of Drotzen is used up and mortgaged to him, but if he dies the whole comes to me. His father and myself married sisters, and they owned Drotzen, and on his side the count is the only heir. So in the event of his death the whole comes to me. You understand this now."

"Perfectly," returned the priest. "And 'tis a pity your first effort did not succeed."

"So it is," said the duke uneasily. "When I sent him with that message to the gunmaker, I felt sure he would be slain, and then I hoped that the other could be disposed of for having slain him. But the emperor has turned all my plans upside down, for the present at least."

Savotano, you must have a hand in Damonoff's medicine!"

"That is easily done, my lord," replied the priest quietly.

"You have free access there?"

"Yes."

"And can you not watch with him some night?"

"I think I can."

"Then do so. When he is dead, 200 ducats are yours."

"Then he dies."

"Good! And now there is one more. This gunmaker must be got out of the way."

"Ah!" uttered Savotano, looking up incredulously. "Do you mean so?"

"Most assuredly I do."

"But why him?"

"Do you fear to undertake the work?"

"Not at all, my lord. I only wished to know why he was wanted away."

"The reason is simple. I must marry with Rosalind Valda. Her property is worth the whole of Drotzen twice fold—over two million of ducats."

"So much?" uttered the priest, opening his eyes with greedy wonder.

"Yes; it is one of the finest estates in Moscow, and it pays her now a yearly income of a hundred thousand ducats. She does not know it. Ha, ha, ha!"

"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed the priest in concert. "She doesn't, eh?"

"No; she knows nothing about it. But I must secure this, and in order to do it I must marry her, and—if I would be sure of that this accursed gunmaker must be out of the way."

"But what is he to her?"

"She loves him."

"And is not your authority?"

"Hold, Savotano. I'll explain to you in a few words. I'm afraid the emperor has taken a fancy to this youngster, and if he has he may be appealed to in this case. The girl will take marriage hard. I shall have to hire you to perform the ceremony."

"Which I should be pleased to do," returned the priest, with a coarse smile.

"You shall have the opportunity. But first we must have the young Nevel taken care of."

"I think I can manage that, my lord."

"And how will you do it?"

"I suppose you don't want him put where he can get off and come back here."

"No. Finish him while you are about it."

"I will."

"But, mind, it must be done so that in no possible way suspicion can fall upon me. You must contrive some way so that suspicion shall be led at once to some apparent point and there baffled."

"Leave me alone for that, my lord. I can call help if I want it."

"Are there not places in the city where a body can be hidden—where it may be so disposed of and never be found?" asked the duke as the thought came to his mind.

"Never mind," returned the other, with a confident nod of the head. "If I meddle with the matter, it shall be well done."

"Very well. I'll trust it with you."

For a few moments after this there was a dead silence, during which only the moaning of the wind could be heard. But at length the duke started up, and, with sudden energy, he said:

"Ah, Savotano, there is one thing I came nigh forgetting. You have heard of this strange monk—Vladimir his name is."

"Aye, and I have seen him too. You mean that huge lump of human fat?"

"Yes. And now tell me who and what he is. He was at the duel, and I know he has been here to my house. Who is he?"

(To be Continued.)

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G. T. Whelpley is in receipt of another lot of fresh ground Western Grey B. W. meal. The rapid sales of this meal prove the quality.—d

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"For three weeks I lay in bed suffering most terribly and utterly helpless from Inflammatory Rheumatism," says Mr. E. H. Norton, of Grimsby, Ont. "When all that the doctors could do failed me, I was induced to try South American Rheumatic Cure. After taking one bottle I was not only able to leave my bed, but surprised my friends by walking down town. I think it a wonder."

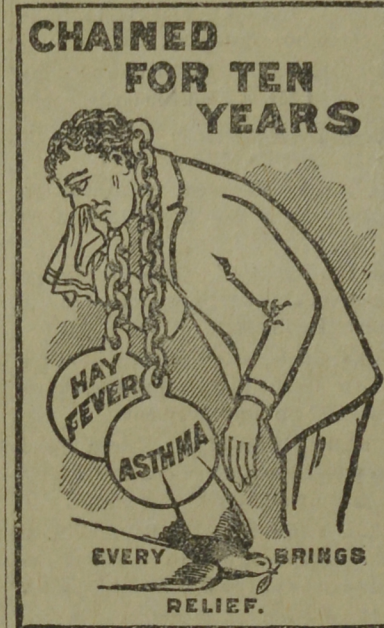
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WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY.



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The REV. C. F. WELLS, of Villa Ridge, Ill., says: "Your trial bottle of Asthmalene received in good condition. I cannot tell you how thankful I feel for the good derived from it. I was a slave, chained with putrid sore throat and Asthma for ten years. I despaired of ever being cured. I saw your advertisement for the cure of this dreadful and tormenting disease, Asthma, and thought you had overspoken yourselves, but resolved to give it a trial. To my astonishment, the trial acted like a charm. Send me a full-sized bottle."

[REV. DR. MORRIS WECHSLER.

Rabbi of the Cong. Bnai Israel.

New York, Jan. 3, 1901.

DR. TAFT BROS' MEDICINE CO.,
Gentlemen: Your Asthmalene is an excellent remedy for Asthma and Hay Fever, and its composition alleviates all troubles which combine with Asthma. Its success is astonishing and wonderful. After having carefully analyzed, we can state that Asthmalene contains no opium, morphine, chloroform or ether. Very truly yours,
REV. DR. MORRIS WECHSLER

Avon Springs, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1901

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.

Gentlemen: I write this testimonial from a sense of duty, having tested the wonderful effect of your Asthmalene, for the cure of Asthma. My wife has been afflicted with spasmodic asthma for the past 12 years. Having exhausted my own skill as well as many others, I chanced to see your sign upon your windows on 130th street, New York. I at once obtained a bottle of Asthmalene. My wife commenced taking it about the first of November. I very soon noticed a radical improvement. After using one bottle her Asthma has disappeared and she is entirely free from all symptoms. I feel that I can consistently recommend the medicine to all who are afflicted with this distressing disease.
Yours respectfully,
O. D. PHELPS, M. D.

Feb. 5, 1901.

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.
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JANUARY 1902.

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