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HOSIERY,
MUFFLERS,
RAINCOAT,
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Etc., Etc.

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SUSPENDERS,
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THE EVENING TIMES

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\$200 IN GOLD \$200 IN GOLD

THE COUNTERSTROKE

By AMBROSE PRATT

Author of "Vigorous Daunt, Billionaire."

(Continued.)

"Dead, sir," gasped the man, "shot and killed by a Nihilist this afternoon at noon!"

"Where did you hear of this?"

Dupassé drew a paper from his pocket. "I didn't leave my post, sir," he muttered apologetically; "one of the servants brought it to me. Besides, they are crying out the news in the streets even now. If you listen you may hear for yourself."

In the silence that followed they could distinctly catch the far-off shouts of an excited crowd, a confused babel of murmurs, from which occasionally single

his ponderous jaws together with a snap. "It is lucky that Emanuel is one of us," he growled and strode to the door. "Follow my orders, gentlemen; it is better to be cautious, although excessive caution is no longer necessary since the dogs our enemies will be in hiding in their holes a week to come at least. You will soon hear from me. I go to Cardinal Cornaro now, thence to the new king. The new king! Le roi est mort, vive le roi. Good-bye, gentlemen! If I do not again see you before you go to Attala, I shall write you full instructions. Ah, the villain, the cruel, cunning villain!"

He paused, his clenched hand unconsciously gripped on high, hesitated a second, then, with a sort of groan, passed out and vanished without a backward glance.

CHAPTER XX.

Side-Lights and Sermons.

"Mein Gott!" said Oeltjen, "what a terrible confirmation of your story, my Lord!"

Cressingham picked up the journal which Perigord had let fall, and read aloud the account and horrid details of King Humbert's assassination.

"Do you know, Oeltjen," he said afterwards, "from the very moment I heard the Count d'Attala so cold-bloodedly predict the fulfilment of his pledge, I somehow felt in my bones that Humbert was doomed, and that nothing in the power of man to do might save him. I do not feel at all surprised for I expected this."

"I wonder if they will be able to extort any information from Bresci the murderer?"

"Be sure not. The Count knows how to choose his instruments too well for that. Remember Klein!"

"Ugh! I shall never forget that night. I often dream of the poor wretch's screams of pain."

"And yet in spite of that dreadful torture, he was obstinate and finally deceived us."

"Who do you suppose fired the bomb that night, my Lord?"

"Who but the Prince, or rather the Archduke. He arrived on the scene immediately after the explosion. I marked his face particularly and saw his eyes counting us over with an expression of utter disappointment. I am sure Perigord commenced to suspect him from that moment. I wonder what fate Perigord intends for him?"

GOWN OF WHITE MULL TRIMMED WITH BLUE MULL AND LACE.

It is impossible in a black and white sketch to do justice to this charming little frock, which was of sheer white material trimmed with lace and two-inch wide bands of thin pale blue tulle. The skirt had three bands of the pale blue mull let in between strips of Val. insertion. Small tucks and little ruffles of Val. lace were also used as trimming for the

"He is a Prince, you know, and heir to a throne."

"You thank then—"

"That he is too highly placed to touch. Perigord will probably warn his royal nephew, and in that way draw his teeth. You see, once the Count d'Attala is killed or imprisoned, the inner circle will crumble to pieces and Nihilism will fade away for want of a leader, never to be revived in our generation at least."

"That is so, for it is the Count who holds all the strings. The Prince and the Turk are merely figure-heads."

"So it seems; but what internal villains they are, worse in my opinion than the Count."

"Ah, you think that because you have not yet seen the Count! Wait a little."

"Do you think we shall encounter much resistance on the island?"

"Very little, if we have any luck. I hope to surprise the place."

"No doubt we shall find records there of all the various Nihilist lodges and their individual members and provincial chiefs."

"I am sure of that, Oeltjen, for Attala has been the Count's headquarters for a quarter century. With what we shall find there Perigord should be able to achieve his mission absolutely and abolish Nihilism as a concerted organization from the face of the earth."

"What a proud man he would be then!"

"Quite forgivably so, too. I can't help admiring the fellow, can you?"

"Well, my Lord, personally I more than admire. You see, for some weeks I have been his intimate companion, and, to some degree, he has given me his confidence and friendship. He is uncouth, and often does things which jar a little on one's nerves, but he is so big in every other way; such a giant physically and mentally, so liberal in his views for other people, although in his own life a severe ascetic, so broad-minded, so charitable and generous. I could tell you a score of things he has done without ostentation and without a second thought—generous, dutiful things which would show you the man's true heart. Why, only last night as we came down from Milano in the train, a poor wretch (we were travelling second class) slipped into our carriage unnoticed by the guard at some small wayside station and besought us to allow him to hide beneath our seat as he wished to visit his wife whom he said was lying ill at Florence in order that he might see her before she died. I pitied the man, he looked so miserable, and I, myself, would myself have gladly done it, but had no money of my own. Perigord had no money of his own either, for he is quite poor personally, and although I had in my bag some hundreds of pounds belonging to his trust he would not permit himself to touch a single farthing. No, my Lord, I defy anyone to see with Perigord for long and entertain for him only admiration. He is rugged and rough, I grant you, but his heart is golden, and for myself I confess I love and am devoted to him."

"Indeed, I am not surprised since you tell me he is capable of such noble action. I have never heard of a finer thing than that."

"Ah, you should see him among the poor as I have seen him, then you would understand the poor of London, of Paris, of Milano and Napoli. He has found a way to their hearts, one and all, I can tell you. He goes among them, the lowliest of the low, and speaks to each poor wretch of his affairs as though old friends had met to chat, and although now so poor himself that he has nothing but words to give them, it needs but little penetration to remark how well beloved he is, how venerated and how lovingly esteemed."

"You fill me with surprise!"

(To be continued.)

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The first taste you like it. Use it a month, a year—the last taste proves it the most delicious part of every meal.

The finest wheat scrubbed, washed, steamed-malted, flaked, toasted into rich, golden brown flakes, that are crisp, dainty satisfying. That is "Orange Meal." From kernel to table, no hand touches it. Machinery does it all.

Besides premiums, you get Ten Dollars if you send in the largest number of coupons taken from the 15c packages.

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Save the coupons and get the \$10.00.

Coupons must be mailed or delivered on or before Dec. 31st and must reach the office of "Orange Meal" Kingston before January 10th when the prize will be awarded.

WATERWAYS IN ENGLAND

Total Length of British Canals and Navigation 4048 Miles.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 12.—In the report of the Royal Commission on Canals just issued, some big and vivid evidence is given, it is stated that the total length of the British canal and navigation is 4,048 miles, of which 2,900 miles are "open waterways," and 1,148 miles are controlled by railways. In 1885 these canals carried 22,330,000 tons of merchandise and had a so-breveted broad gauge, the net revenue being £273,300. The evidence of all witnesses goes to show that in the 4,000 miles there is an endless variety of size, locks, methods and controls. Many of the waterways are ancient and a large number do not pay. It is almost impossible to say what the country on important routes are a fault or impossible.

The inadequacy of the present canals was pointed out by Mr. E. S. Ender, engineer of the Waterways Navigation. The canals are not uniformly of gauge. Some of the locks are seven feet wide and some four feet wide and others, of course, are much larger so that it is impossible at present to go from one point of the country on a through route without break of gauge. It is impossible to go, for instance, from Liverpool to Hull or Birmingham without saving a break in the gauge.

The same witness gave a calculation of the cost of buying all the canals right out and improving them. He calculated the purchase of the present canals at the rate of twenty years' purchase on the net profit given in the last return (after subtracting the profits from acting as carriers). The net profit taken at £200,000, twenty years' purchase would be £4,000,000. At the rate of £1,000 for contingents, that would be £11,000,000. That gives a total of £15,000,000. Interest at three per cent would make £4,500,000 a year and a sinking fund of one and a half per cent, which would mean meeting the cost in about 60 years, would be £2,500,000. Then Mr. Sander took the maintenance and management of the whole of the canals at £1,277,000, making a total of £23,000,000 per annum, which would have to be met. Against this we have the present gross income of the present canals taken at £1,500,000, which would leave a net deficiency of £21,500,000. To meet that we should only require 11,000,000 additional tons at 10 per ton to cover the cost. The tonnage, in Mr. Sander's opinion, would be very much greater than that.

On the matter of canal competition, E. C. Corbett, secretary of the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, put in some figures, of which the following, relating to timber, are illustrative:

Where canals compete Miles per ton

Worcester to Gloucester	29	48 52
Worcester to Birmingham	26	48 44
Worcester to Bristol	66	28 48 44
Gloucester to Birmingham	56	68 11 12

Where no canals compete Miles per ton

Worcester to Cheltenham	22	44 44
Worcester to Shrewsbury	62	48 74
Worcester to Oxford	57	38 74

We get Worcester to Bristol, 66 miles, 68 per ton, against Worcester to Shrewsbury, 62 miles, 48 per ton.

A great deal of valuable evidence was taken as to the waterways of the continent and the great sums which have been spent by various states on publicly owned canals and canalized rivers.

A quiet wedding took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, in St. Mary's church, when J. H. Richards, of the Wm. Richards Company, Boistown, was united in marriage to Miss Maud Waldron, formerly of Moore's Mills, Charlotte county. Only immediate friends were present, and Rev. W. O. Raymond performed the ceremony.

R. W. McLellan, of Fredericton, was in the city yesterday.

Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers.



A ROYAL WRAP.
Imperial Sables, Ermine Lined.

What is perhaps one of the prettiest designs set forth in costly sables is that pictured herewith. This pelt has increased so wonderfully in cost during the past few years that purchasers invariably plan some way of making whereby the skins shall not be unduly cut into; so that when the modes change—as they do all too frequently for such costly possessions—the exquisite pelts will not have to be sacrificed because of irregularity of shape or cut. In the beautiful garment illustrated there is rather more than a suggestion of the Empire style. The top is fashioned with the stripes of the fur, the dark markings meeting in the center in a V and the fronts following the same lines. The lower part is of a circular cut, but so deftly are the skins handled that straight strips of the fur give an air of slenderness to the wearer and take away from the bulky effect that such deep-haired pelts so often afford.

The entire lining is of snowy ermine, so that when the fronts are left open fascinating glimpses of this white fur are seen, and in order that its flatteringly becoming effect shall be fully utilized a flat collar and little stole fronts of this same white pelt are used, the same hint repeated in the cuff. The sable paws, heads and tails form a fringe both to the Empire yoke and the lower edge of the garment, and the all-saving art of the furrier is deftly exercised so that no part of the valuable pelt is unused. The muff that matches is one of the new square shapes that have both pockets and a bag cunningly concealed in their making, the two upper corners defined with a little sable head, while the paws and tails decorate the lower corners.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR TORONTO

The News of That City Gives the City Council Some Good Advice.

(Toronto News).

A playground is absolutely distinct from a park, a fact which the city council of Toronto does not seem to realize. Parks are very necessary, not only as breathing places for city dwellers, but as beauty spots, whereby the general attractiveness of a community can be enhanced. But children are not allowed to play in these places. They might break the flowers, or scrape the bark off the trees, or make holes in the green sward. In some cases, indeed, menacing signs advise the little ones to keep off the grass. The playground, as known in New York, is exactly what the word signifies—a place where children can play to their hearts' content. Its main object is to keep the boys and girls off the street, where they are subject to innumerable dangers. Therefore, its proper place is where population is congested. In Toronto the first playgrounds should be established in the ward.

The council thinks the project is too costly. This, we believe, is a mistaken idea. Aldermen might study with advantage a booklet entitled, "Playgrounds for Toronto," which has been issued by J. J. Kelso, provincial superintendent of neglected children. Pictures of several of the more important playgrounds in New York are presented, and the case in favor of the acquisition of land for such purposes is stated strongly and concisely.

The mayor's answer to the University Women's Club, on the question of a playground in the ward, is most encouraging. If the mayor and the board of control will but give definite and concrete expression to the intention outlined in his reply to the Women's Club, it will be a sound and progressive step of civic policy, and will stand to the lasting credit of the administration. It is true such a project

cannot be put through over night, but it does not take forever. If some of the present activity were displayed during the summer months we believe better speed might be made with this and kindred projects. However this may be, the mayor should have the hearty support of the press, the pulpit and the public generally in the scheme which will provide a breathing place in the district which is a foul blot on Toronto. Surely it is not a great step from such an enlightened policy as providing playgrounds for the children, to the further and even more needed policy looking to the expropriation of the major portion of the ward, the demolition of the "ancient" and disgraceful slacks which now endanger public health and morals, and the erection of suitable apartment houses on the plan adopted by many Old World cities. The mayor's utterance has the right ring to it. Now let us have the definite action, and the playground.

The propagation committee of the Sons of Temperance met last evening in the store of Joshua Stark, Germain street, and among those present were Rev. C. Flemington, G. V. P.; Rev. C. W. Hamilton, G. V. P.; T. H. Lawson, G. T. W.; W. H. Patterson, J. Stark, R. Maxwell, M. P. P., Col. A. J. Armstrong and S. P. McCavour. Reports were received, among which was one from Rev. C. W. Hamilton as lecturer and organizer. He told of his work in November and the report was approved. Acting on the report the following resolution was passed: That the lecturer and organizer be authorized to continue his work to the best of his ability until May 1 next. The outlook of the cause was considered good but much strenuous work was needed to bring the desired results.

The city laborers' union held a very enjoyable smoker in their rooms, Berym's Hall, last night. The president, James Sullivan, was in the chair, and among those who were present and addressed the meeting were Ald. Sprout, W. Frank Hallway, Douglas McArthur, and Peter C. Sharkey. There was a very large attendance.

J. Gardiner Taylor, of the Bank of Commerce, returned from Upper Canada yesterday.

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