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THE EVENING TIMES

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THE COUNTERSTROKE

By AMBROSE PRATT

Author of "Vigorous Daunt, Billionaire."

(Continued.)

CHAPTER X.

THE COUNCIL OF KINGS.

Mr. Perigord glanced in at two or three restaurants, but apparently dissatisfied with the appearance of their occupants, finally requisitioned a private room at the Hotel de l'Europe at the end of the Toledo. He ordered a very plain repast, and while they partook of it leisurely explained himself. "The Captain's body," he said, "will be removed before during the evening. The health officer has already certified that he died of apoplexy; therefore we shall be troubled with no official inquiry. There will, however, be made privately a post-mortem examination of the contents of his stomach in order to determine the proper cause of death. The doctor suspects aconite or opium, and I am inclined to agree with him."

"What of the Colonel?" asked the young man anxiously.

Perigord shook his head. "Impossible to say, my Lord. The doctor thinks he cannot recover; he says the old man must have had the morphine habit or he could not have survived so long. He will be taken ashore, however, and everything that medical skill can do will be done to help him. His is a very sad case, for even should he recover he will probably be either paralyzed or permanently insane."

"How horrible! And Madame?" inquired Cressingham.

"Is she to escape scot-free?"

"I think not; her fate will, however, be determined this evening. By the way, my Lord, I have to thank you for the manner in which you have recently acquitted yourself of the duties allotted to you. You have hitherto obeyed me without question, trusting almost blindly to my word. It is time that I requited your confidence to some extent. Tonight I shall endeavor to secure your admission to the council of my coadjutors, amongst whom are numbered some of the great ones of the earth. I think, moreover, if all goes well, that I can promise you a complete rehabilitation in the career which you had chosen for yourself, and which was so unfortunately interrupted. That, however, must largely depend upon your own energy and perseverance. If you continue to show yourself worthy, you will find many powerful men willing to assist you, and anxious to become your friends."

"You are very good, sir," said Cressingham gratefully, "but I fear that what you suggest is beyond the bounds of possibility. I'm afraid I have damned myself completely. The British government would never give me another chance."

Perigord surveyed the young man with a strange smile, his powerful face animated with an expression of quaint kindness and unwonted warmth. "We shall see; we shall see. Wait a little, my Lord. Time is full of balmy attributes; a little time and who knows what may happen. But tell me, is it true that Prince Carlos fell and bruised his face? I thought his explanation was peculiar."

Cressingham colored. "He insulted me most grossly, sir. I knocked him down."

"That is bad, my boy, very bad. The man is of royal blood. He is slightly crazed, I think. I warn you, did I not, to bear with him?"

"You did, sir—but I lost my temper; he wished to prevent us drawing Madame's teeth, professed to believe her a malignant angel, and called me by an unforgivable name."

"I see; and yet she appears to loathe him; will not allow him to go near her, I believe, so Verloeff informed me. Is that right?"

"I do not know that, sir, but I do know that he conversed with her immediately the bodies were discovered."

"Ah—and he wished Verloeff to stop at Spavento. It is really quite a lucky thing that you are a bad sailor, my Lord."

"I don't quite understand you, sir."

"The Prince refused to taste Madame's sugar plums, is not that so?"

"That is true!"

"He wished to stop at Spavento, and violently defended Madame."

"All true, sir."

"You infer nothing from these facts?"

"I dare not, sir—why, what?"

"My Lord," said Perigord gravely, "in an enterprise such as ours the slightest happenings require investigation, and that investigation should be founded on the maxim that your staunchest seeming friend may be at heart an enemy. But you have finished your dinner; your friend Oeljen will be waiting for us on the

Piazza Reale. Let us go."

Cressingham got up, and mustering his courage while he collected the bill, inquired: "Recent events will not delay us in proceeding to the rescue of Miss Oeljen, sir, I hope?"

"I hope not," answered Perigord. "In a short while we shall definitely know." Five minutes' walk took them to the Count von Oeljen, who cordially shook hands with Cressingham. The three gentlemen then entered a faience and drove northwards, Perigord giving the driver an address that completely astonished Cressingham. At ten o'clock they drew up before the gateway of the Palace of King Humbert of Italy, and Cressingham gave a password to the sentries on guard, they were all permitted to pass into the Royal grounds.

Perigord led the way to a side entrance, defended by a porch, within which stood a dozen soldiers, an officer, and about twenty black-clad gentlemen. To the officer he simply announced his name, and instantly they were ushered with the greatest courteousness through a spacious hall into an ante-chamber, where Perigord bade his companions wait, he himself proceeding with the officer to an inner room.

An hour passed, which Cressingham devoted to informing Oeljen of his adventures on the Sea Hawk. At the end of that time an old and courtly gentleman came, who asked them to follow him. They proceeded from the ante-chamber to a wide corridor, thronged with officers magnificently dressed, who all stood to attention like so many private soldiers.

Passing between their ranks they entered a second ante-room, where were seated three grave-looking gentlemen in evening dress, who politely arose and bowed to the strangers. Their guide led them to the further door, on which he knocked, and opened, bidding them enter, himself remaining outside and closing the door behind them.

The friends found themselves in a large and stately apartment decorated with all the ornate extravagance of the early Italian renaissance; it was brilliantly illuminated, and its walls hung with many fine oil paintings. A large table occupied the centre of the room, around which were seated seven gentlemen, six of whom were attired in ordinary dinner suits. The seventh wore the richly-colored robe of a cardinal and on his head a scarlet biretta. He occupied the head of the table; on his left hand sat King Humbert, whose stern and warlike features were set in an expression of cold and impassive. The other five gentlemen were unrecognizable behind heavy velvet masks.

Mr. Perigord stood at the foot of the table immediately opposite the Cardinal. He appeared to have been just speaking, and to have paused at the interruption. The three gentlemen stared for some space at Cressingham and Oeljen without speaking.

Cressingham, who recognized King Humbert and thought that he could also recognize the King's vis-a-vis, made (as well as Oeljen) a reverent obeisance. He was profoundly moved at finding himself in such august company, and although he had been in a measure prepared, he nevertheless experienced a shock so great that for the first time in his life he was touched with nervousness and veritable timidity. Having bowed, he unconsciously drew himself up like a soldier and stood at the salute, enduring the examination with tremulous lips and unknown to him Oeljen, who had doubtless known better what to expect, was more at ease.

Perigord broke the silence whose intensity was growing painful. "As I said before, your Eminence and your Majesty," he began gravely, speaking in French, his deep powerful voice filling the room with heavy waves of sound. "I shall personally answer for these gentlemen. Lord Francis Cressingham" (Cressingham involuntarily stepped forward) "has already rendered our cause important service. Ludwig, Count von Oeljen, has for the past two weeks been my private secretary, his worthiness I have amply proved."

The Cardinal answered in a chin rasping voice: "Your assurance, Mr. Perigord, is sufficient recommendation. If you are satisfied, we are more than pleased to welcome the gentlemen amongst us. Is it not so?"

He looked slowly round the table. King Humbert for answer slightly nodded, and the six masked gentlemen immediately removed their masks. Cressingham stood petrified to meet the open gaze of five reigning monarchs and the Crown Prince of Italy, who sat beside the King, his father. As well as the Prince, the Cardinal, King Humbert, and Perigord, the council was composed of the Czar Nicholas of Russia, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, the Emperor of Austria, and the King of Sweden.

They all slightly bowed to the two astonished intruders; then, apparently dismissing the matter from their thoughts, glanced inquiringly towards the Cardinal, who seemed to act as president.

"The Archduke" is now twenty minutes late," said his Eminence; "doubtless he has been detained. I think we need not wait further, but proceed to business."

Cressingham heard the name then uttered with a start, for he had at last rightly guessed the identity of Prince Carlos.

The others all signified approval.

Perigord immediately beckoned to von Oeljen, and, pointing to a mass of papers on the table at his left hand, gave some direction.

(To be continued.)

A Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers



FOUR COAT FOR WEAR WITH CLOTH OR VELVET GOWN.

Fancy coats of fur will be very fashionable during the coming winter, and the model shows a design that would make an excellent model to copy in making a coat or jacket of sealskin, Persian lamb or any short pelt fur. The coat sketched had a vest and turnover collar of white cloth embroidered in black and gold, and large gold buttons were also used on the fronts and open sleeves of the jacket. The coat was cut in a short square Eton, the sleeves being flared, caps, trimmed with the embroidered broadcloth, over elbow sleeves of very heavy cream lace threaded with inch-wide velvet about the lower part.

Starved by Anaemia

Health Restored by the Rich Blood Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Actually Make.

Thousands and thousands of young girls throughout Canada are literally passing into hopeless decline for the want of the new rich red blood so abundantly supplied by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They are distressingly weak, pale or sallow, appetite feeble, subject to headaches, dizziness, are breathless and the heart palpitates violently at the least exertion. The doctors call this anaemia—which is the medical name for bloodlessness. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new blood—they cure anaemia just as surely as food cures hunger. Here is a bit of the strongest kind of evidence: "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and nothing else saved my two daughters when doctors had failed to help them."

This statement is made by Mrs. Joseph Martel, St. Oliver street, Quebec. She adds: "My daughters are aged respectively twenty-two and twenty-three years. For two years they suffered from the weakness and distress of anaemia, and had I learned of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills earlier, it would not only have saved me money, but much worry and anxiety as well. Both girls were as pale as a sheet. They suffered from headaches, poor appetite, and grew so feeble that they could hardly go about. They were under a doctor's care, but did not improve a bit. I despaired of ever seeing them in good health again, when a friend called my attention to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Soon after they began the pills there was an improvement in their condition and in less than a couple of months they were again enjoying good health, active robust girls. I am so grateful for what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done for my children that I strongly recommend them to every mother who has a weak, pale faced boy or girl."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills do only one thing, but they do it well—they actually make new, rich blood. They don't tinker with symptoms. They act on the bowels. They simply change bad blood into good blood and thus strike straight at the root of such common ailments as headache, indigestion, nervous exhaustion, neuralgia, St. Vitus dance, partial paralysis, and the special, painful secret ailments of growing girls and women. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Fall River Cotton Operatives Likely to Get More Pay

Fall River, Mass., Nov. 16.—The executive committee of the Fall River Manufacturers' Association held a meeting today to discuss the demand of the Textile Council for a ten per cent. advance in the wages of the cotton mill operatives.

None of the treasurers who attended the meeting would make a statement concerning the conclusions reached, but it is thought that a compromise arrangement will be suggested to the Textile Council in a letter which will probably reach the union representatives tomorrow.

The council named Nov. 19 as the latest date for the receipt of a reply.

The operatives feel that in view of the prosperous state of the industry, they should receive higher wages. The Textile Council asks that the price paid for weaving be advanced from 19.50 cents per rate, the present price, to 21.75 cents, the rate paid prior to the reduction of 1903.

The manufacturers do not feel that they can profitably pay 21.75 cents, unless the wage schedules in other mill centres should be adjusted to meet a ten per cent. advance. It is probable that a compromise will be attempted.

No meeting of the Textile Council has been called for this week.

Ottawa, Nov. 16.—(Special)—Judge Dougherty, of the superior court of Montreal, has resigned. His resignation was received at the justice department this morning.

FREDERICTON NEWS

Alexander Burchill Left \$5,500 Estate to be Divided Among His Children --- Transferred to Capital.

Fredricton, Nov. 16.—The will of the late Alexander Burchill was admitted to probate yesterday afternoon. The estate was sworn at \$4,000 real, Charles A. Burchill and Albert E. Massie are executors. The executors are to sell the entire estate and divide the proceeds equally between the five surviving children.

Lieut. E. Dudemaine, R. C. R., has arrived from Halifax, accompanied by Mrs. Dudemaine. Lieut. Dudemaine has been transferred to this city, and will be permanently stationed at No. 3 military depot as adjutant.

G. T. R. EXPRESS WECKED AND SIX INJURED

Woodstock, Ont., Nov. 16.—One coach on its side in a ditch, two part way down the embankment, a sleeper off the track, the press and mail car broken from trucks and overturned and the baggage car off the rails was the fate that befell the eastbound G. T. R. Lehigh express, due to arrive here at 4:40 this morning, on the outskirts of Woodstock. No person was killed, and no one very seriously hurt.

The injured conductor McCormick, slightly injured; brakeman Williamson, badly injured; J. R. Smith and wife, passengers from Chicago to Rochester, Smith slightly hurt, Mrs. Smith injured in hip and otherwise bruised, Charles Hicks and wife, passengers from Chicago to Buffalo, Hicks slightly hurt in knee, and his wife badly bruised in body and ribs.

BOSTON "L" COMPANY TO ADVANCE WAGES

Boston, Nov. 16.—The Boston Elevated Railway Company, which controls practically all the trolley lines in Boston and vicinity, and also the elevated system, announced tonight that a voluntary advance in wages would be granted to its 5,200 employees on Jan. 1. The increase will average ten cents a day, and will amount to \$160,000 a year.

GOT A PAIN IN YOUR BACK?

You get a pain in your back, and you wonder what is the matter. You perhaps pay no attention to it. Backache is caused by imperfect action of the kidneys, in fact, is the first sign of kidney trouble to follow.

The kidneys, proper, are composed of a close network of fibrous tissue, interlaced with tiny elastic fibres. Their object is the excretion of the uric acid, and other poisonous matter composing the urine, from the blood.

They are continuously at work to preserve the general health of the body and most people are troubled with some form of kidney trouble, but do not suspect it.

Some of the symptoms are: A feeling of weakness in the small of the back, sharp pains in back, puffiness under the eyes, and swelling of the feet and ankles, urinary troubles such as suppressed urination, excessive urination, cloudy, thick or highly colored urine, etc.

Mr. J. L. Whiting, Oshabuck, Centre, Ont., writes: "I suffered for two years with kidney trouble. I had terrible pains in my back, hips and legs. I could not sleep and had a poor appetite. I took four boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills, and the pains left me, my appetite returned and I now sleep well. I can recommend Doan's Kidney Pills to anyone suffering from kidney trouble."

Doan's Kidney Pills are 50 cents per box or 3 boxes for \$1.25. Sent by mail on receipt of price by The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

Hon. J. P. Burchill is at the Royal. F. B. Carvell, M. P., of Woodstock, was at the Royal yesterday.



OTTAWA, ONT.

232 Cooper St., Jan. 8th, 1906.

You know what fearful trouble I have had all my life time from constipation. I have been a dreadful sufferer from chronic constipation for over thirty years and I have been treated by many physicians and I have taken many kinds of proprietary medicines without any benefit whatever. I took a pill for a long time which was prescribed by the late Dr. C. R. Church of Ottawa. Also for many months I took a pill prescribed by Dr. A. F. Rogers, of Ottawa. Nothing seemed to do me any good. Finally I was advised by Dr. Rogers to try "Fruit-a-tives", and after taking them for a few months I feel I am completely well from this horrible complaint. I have had no trouble with this complaint now for a long time, and I can certainly state that "Fruit-a-tives" is the only medicine I ever took that did me any positive good for constipation. I can conscientiously recommend "Fruit-a-tives" to the public as, in my opinion, it is the finest medicine ever produced.

(Signed)

JOHN COSTIGAN.

IN THREE MONTHS "Fruit-a-tives" did what Doctors and drugs failed to do in THIRTY YEARS.

"Fruit-a-tives" cured the Hon. John Costigan of the worst case of chronic Constipation that the leading physicians of Ottawa ever saw. "Fruit-a-tives" gave this famous statesman what he had not had for 30 years—perfect health.

Mr. Costigan gives the credit where credit is due—to "FRUIT-A-TIVES"—the one remedy that can, and does, cure Constipation.

Fruit-a-tives
OR FRUIT LIVER TABLETS

are the only remedy in the world really made of fruit. Juices of fresh Apples, Oranges, Figs and Prunes are so combined that the well known medicinal action of the fruit is increased many times. Tonics are added, and the whole pressed into fruit liver tablets.

"Fruit-a-tives" owe their wonderful power, and their wonderful success, to the fact that they are made of fruit—that they ARE fruit, INTENSIFIED.

It is the medicinal principles of fruit that can restore the great eliminating organs—the Kidneys, Bowels and Skin—to their normal condition. That is why "Fruit-a-tives"—made of fruit—cure Constipation and cause the bowels to move naturally—correct all Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Skin Troubles—and build up the entire system.

If you are suffering as the Hon. John Costigan did—CURE YOURSELF as he did—with "Fruit-a-tives."

50c. a box—or 6 boxes for \$2.50. Sent on receipt of price if your druggist does not handle them.

Fruit-a-tives Limited • Ottawa.

KEEP YOUR TEMPER.

Save your time and strength. Do not waste them trying to make good bread and pastry with an inferior flour. You will get only trouble and disappointment for your pains.

The easy and satisfactory way to bake is to use "FIVE ROSES" FLOUR, as this brand never gets lumpy or hardens, and never needs any special preparation for use.

Its uniformity is such that, unlike ordinary brands, the same methods, all of them simple, can be used with every bag. "FIVE ROSES" FLOUR, an oven, some water, a little yeast and common sense will give you a whiter and sweeter loaf, and lighter and flakier pastry, with less trouble than any ordinary brands on the market. Users of it save time, temper, and money.

"FIVE ROSES" is, in fact, the flour that satisfies.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT.

Lake of the Woods Milling Co., Limited.

Montreal.

St. John.

Winnipeg.



It fits like a second skin

STANFIELD'S UNSHRINKABLE UNDERWEAR is made in a range of sizes to give EVERY MAN just the chest measurement—the length of shirt and drawers—that suit his figure.

Stanfield's "Unshrinkable" Underwear

Is absolutely unshrinkable. It fits easily, comfortably—and it does not get loose and baggy with wear. Every garment is guaranteed unshrinkable and faultless. Your dealer will refund the money if you have a single complaint to make against any Stanfield garment.

A COUGH YRUSP

that will treat a cold in a satisfactory manner must be soothing, warming—loosen the cough, and contain neither opium nor morphine.

Dr. White's Honey Balm

Immediately relieves the throat irritation, the tightness across the chest, and makes a quick and perfect cure. It is guaranteed safe for the smallest child. Try it. 25c. at all druggists. Dr. Scott White Linctament Co., Ltd., St. John, N. B., and Chelmsford, Mass., manufacturers of the celebrated Dr. Herber's Dyspepsia Cure. \$1 bottle cures. Write for pamphlet.