Store closes evenings at 6 p. m. Saturdays 11 p. m.

UNION CLOTHING CO.

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YOUR NEW SPRING SUIT

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New Men's Suits $6 to $22 Latest Cuts

Our Great Trouser Value at $1.98 a pair is wonderful value--a $3 Trousers for $1.98

Sizes to fit large and small size men—choice selection of cloths and very neat designs. Don't miss this great $3 Trouser at **$1.98.**

The Viper of Milan.

A ROMANCE OF LOMBARDY.

BY MARJORIE BOWEN.

(Continued.)

The Count had scarcely strength for any definite purpose of self-help. He craved water, and turned to drag himself away in search of some he might dare drink. Ere long, he knew not how, he reached it; a little hollow fringed with fern, in its centre a calm and placid pool, the trees mirrored its peaceful surface. Count Conrad fell beside it, gazing longingly. A statue of a wodgod, the sunlight yellow in the hollow eyes, leaned from among the bushes, and mocked him with its smile.

Another effort and he had reached the stone. The water was so cool ,so clear, so pure and still, it seemed impossible that it should harm him. He reached his hand out, then convulsively resisting the impulse, drew it back, and sank again upon the grass. At a flutter of white from the boughs near, Count Conrad lifted his eyes, and saw a dove that flew past him to rest upon the rim; he watched it eagerly. The bird preened itself, shook its feathers daintily, stooped and drank. Conrad drew himself a little nearer. Suddenly with a cry the bird whirled up into the air, beat its wings together vainly, and fell back into the water, dead! Poisoned! All the water poisoned! Desperation giving him a moment's strength, Count Conrad rose and regarded the dead dove with greedy eyes, but steeling himself against the impulse to devour his own death, he crawled on with the vague thought to reach the gate. Some instinct of remembrance guiding his stumbling steps, he came upon it. It was twice his height, and all its elaborate tracery offered no single aperture through which a child could thrust his hand. Sick and blind, he clung to it; he tried to shout, to scream, his voice died in his throat. In helpless rage, his wild face pressed against the iron, his eyes starting, his tongue lolling out of his dry mouth, he gripped and shook the lock.

Two children running by, stopped, gazed, came nearer, and then at what they saw, fled, screaming. No one else approached. The world seemed empty. Twilight began to fall. Then in his half-delirium Count Conrad thought again of the dead bird, and laughed wolfishly to himself, making with tottering steps back toward the hollow. To search coherently for food or drink or succor was now beyond his power. Presently again he sank across the grass and lay there crying like a child, whimpering and whispering. Once or twice he made an effort, snatched at the long grass, fell back again, and lay now in silence.

After a time, but while it was still light, he seemed to wake as from a trance, and saw a figure moving down the glade toward him. Was he still living? He could scarcely tell. Was this Visconti come again to mock him? The thought spurred the man, though dying, almost to strive to rise and meet his fate standing. But sky, grass, trees, and stone reeled about him in a chaos of green and blue. He strove to speak, but his tongue refused. The dark figure came nearer, stopped beside nim, stooped and spoke. but Count Conrad did not see nor heed. He lay, a woeful spectacle, as if dead indeed.

He awoke, as he thought never to wake again, with moistened lips, and water on his forehead, and a face that was not Visconti's bending over him; a dark face with strange brown eyes, that looked at him, with sombre interest.

"Thou comest from the Duke?" gasped Conrad. Francisco shook his head.

"I am no emissary of Visconti."

"Then thou comest to save me?" whispered Conrad eagerly, hope dawning in his eyes.

"I will save thee if I can," replied Francisco. 'Thou art alone?"

Conrad moved his head. He was too weak for more. Then a sudden thought shot horror into his face, and he struggled to a sitting posture.

"The water!' 'he gasped out. "The water—from the fountain—thou gave me to drink of that?"

Francisco followed in surprise the direction of his glance.

"No,' he said. "I had it with me; 'twas water and wine too."

"Oh!" Conrad sank back. "The water is poisoned—all—"

'Poisoned—Visconti's doing!" said Francisco.

"How didst thou get in?" whispered Conrad feebly. "Visconti barred all entrances."

"I found one unknown to any; canst thou, with my help, walk there?"

"I think—I can walk—to safety," was the answer, and the love of life lending him strength, he staggered to his feet, and helped by Francisco and invigorated by the wine made slowly forward.

But they had not taken many steps be fore Francisco well perceived he had rescued a man past helping himself, wellnigh past any help from others.

With a sigh Conrad sank speechless into his arms.

Francisco looked around him. He had come far from the entrance he had forced, and Conrad, plainly starved, and emaciated as he was, was still a man full grown. To leave him and return to Tomaso would be too dangerous. The place must be under observation. But to seek safety himself and abandon the helpless man was not a thought to occur to Francisco, though hampered by his dead weight, he would be at any pursuer's mercy, or fall a prey to any ambush; so with stout words of encouragement, and forcing more wine through his lips, he lifted the Count to his shoulder and made as rapidly as he was able to the door beside the lichen. It was a breathless journey, but at last, and unmolested, Francisco gained the wall and laid his burden down. Reconnoitering without, he saw no sign of danger, and, glad of the oncoming dusk, dragged up the man and laid him, at least free, outside the door. The cool air blowing from the water, a few drops more wine, in which Francisco soaked some crumbs of bread he found within his wallet, enabled the rescued man again to move.

It was an easy matter now to bring Vittore and Tomaso, who would not be left, and between them Conrad, too spent to put questions, was carried to their shelter and laid on the rough heather couch in the hut, from which one of his own vassals had been driven; a poor asylum enough, but one for which he only too gladly exchanged the deadly splendor of his own magnificent abode.

"Who is he?" asked Tomaso, in timid surprise. For the first time since their knowledge of him Francisco laughed, and without bitterness.

"One of Visconti's victims! It is some poor satisfaction to have rescued two," he said. "I know nothing of him except that it is plainly to be seen he is some person of distinction. We will nurse him to the best of our skill, Tomaso, he may be of use——"

Then suddenly Francisco's humor changed. He glanced around him at the boy, the youth scarcely recovered from his fever, the ghastly figure on the ground over which he bent, and fury shook him. Of what use anything against Visconti? "Oh, terrible to be so helpless!" he cried passionately. "We will leave this place. I break my heart in vain against the walls of Milan. I will to Ferrara, to Della Scala's kinsfolk there."

"And they will aid thee?" asked Tomaso trembling.

Francisco smiled, but this time grimly. "I can but try," he said. "Della Scala was once known and trusted there. And in no case can we stay here!" He pointed down at Conrad. "The place will not be safe for us, let Visconti once discover his victim has escaped him. We will depart to Ferrara, and fall upon Visconti while he is unsuspecting that I—that anyone lives to still animate the Estes against him. . . ."

An hour or two later, while Vittore and Tomaso slept, Francisco keeping watch beside him, Conrad woke from a light doze and felt that he had hold on life again. He tried to murmur thanks to his preserver, but the other checked him.

"Thou art not of Italy?" he said.

"I am Conrad von Schulembourg."

'Conrad von Schulembourg!" echoed Francisco in surprise. "Visconti's trusted friend!"

"The trusted friend of him who fastened me within my villa yonder to die a lingering death of hunger ,or of poisoned food." The drops started on his forehead, he gasped for breath.

Francisco soothed and tended him.

"Think not of it; get well,' 'he said, as he had said to Tomaso. "Live and help rid the world of the Visconti. He would have thee die a dog's death. Is not life dear to thee?"

'Yes, I will live," said Conrad, "and I will take revenge both for my own wrongs and for a woman's sake."

Francisco turned quickly and looked at him keenly.

"A woman's sake! Thy motive is the same as mine; I too am living—for a woman's sake."

Then, at the other's questioning stare, Francisco continued more quietly:

"I am from Verona, Count; that will tell thee much. I belong to Della Scala's court, and barely escaped with life from the sacking of the town. Thou see'st I can for that and other matters more than equal thee in hatred of Visconti."

He rose and moving toward the door, looked out.

"Oh, I am impatient!" he chied passionately, "to be riding toward Ferrara!"

(To Be Continued.)

Women Suffer Agonies from Kidney Trouble

GIN PILLS CURE THEM

There is Mrs. Ripley, for instance. She suffered terribly with her back. It ached, ached, ached—all the time. Even in bed, it seemed as if she could not get easy. It finally became so bad that housework was impossible.

She certainly was a discouraged woman when she began to take GIN PILLS. And there isn't a happier. healthier woman in the Dominion than this same Mrs. Ripley to-day.

Williamsdale East, May 9th.

I cannot refrain from writing you the benefits I have received from Gin Pills. Before I had taken Gin Pills I suffered dreadfully with my back, and had suffered for twenty years. I have tried almost everything but got no relief until I got "Gin Pills."

I have taken six boxes and now I have not the sign of a pain or an ache in my back. I am now 48 and feel as well as I ever did in my life. There is nothing can hold a place with Gin Pills for pains in the back to which women are subject. Yours truly,

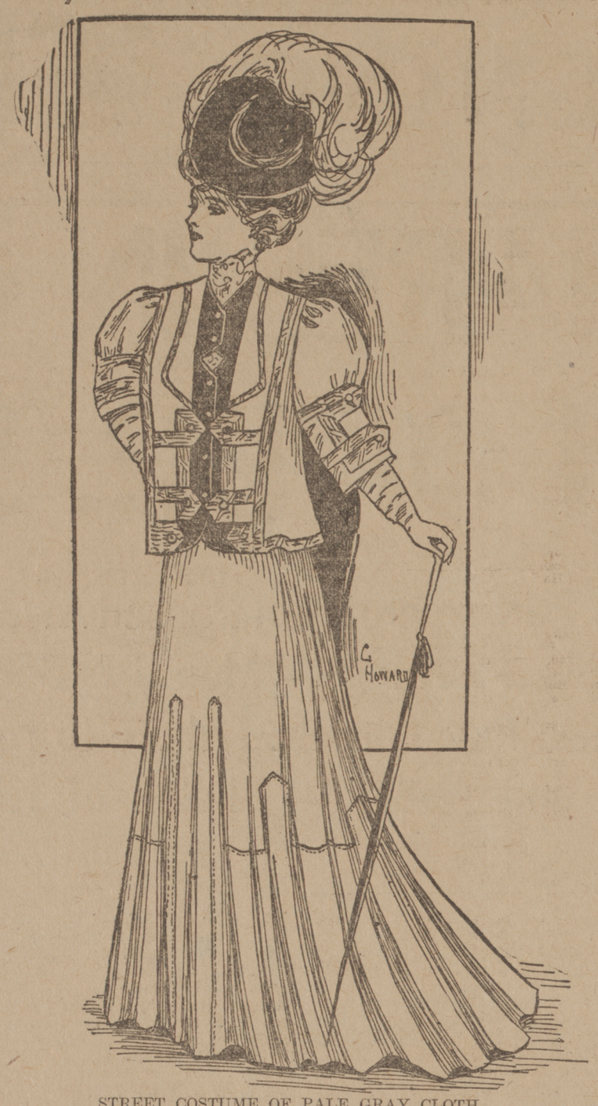
MRS. MILLANOR P. RIPLEY.

Mrs. Ripley had serious Kidney Trouble. And the sick kidneys were making her back ache—were giving her those splitting headaches—were sapping her strength—and dragging her down. GIN PILLS really saved her life. GIN PILLS cured her kidneys. She has been well ever since. GIN PILLS are a grand medicine for women.

Try them at our expense. Mention this paper when writing and we will send you a free sample so you can see for yourself just what GIN PILLS will do for you. The Bole Drug Co., Winnipeg, Man. 91

50c. a box—6 for $2.50. At all dealers.

Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers.



STREET COSTUME OF PALE GRAY CLOTH.

The costume illustrated was designed for dress wear, the skirt being made with a decided sweep all around. The little coat was a short, loose affair, trimmed with braid and buttons, the vest being of a darker shade than the cloth. It was made of heavy corded silk. The skirt had an attached flounce set on from either side of the front. This model would also be very smart in white or colored linen, trimmed with wide, heavy wash braid.

WEAK HEART SYSTEM WAS RUN DOWN

When the heart is healthy and performing its fuctions naturally, it should beat regularly seventy-two times a minute without causing its owner the slightest inconvenience or distress.

When it begins to beat irregularly or intermittently, palpitate and throb, skip beats, beat fast for a time, then so slow as to seem almost to stop, it causes great anxiety and alarm.

The least excitement or exertion seems to affect it.

Many people are kept in a state of morbid fear of death, become weak, worn and miserable, and are unable to attend to either social or business duties, through unnatural action of their heart.

To all such sufferers

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS

can give prompt and permanent relief. Mrs. F. Fletcher, Sault Ste. Marie, West, Ont., says: "I have been troubled for four or five years with weakness, and run down system. My feet were always cold and I felt almost dead. My heart was weak and I was so nervous I could hardly walk across the street. I started taking Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and after using three boxes I felt much better. I continued their use until I had taken twelve boxes and I am now well."

Price 50 cents per box or 3 boxes for $1.25 at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

There was a good attendance of seamen in the Chipman house last night when a very pleasant evening was spent. St. Clement's Glee Club from Millidgeville, under the direction of W. A. Steiper, were in charge of the entertainment. E. Shubert gave some lantern views and R. Day selections on the gramophone, and the soloists were A. Osborne, W. Staples, R. Giggey and H. Bird. J. Ross, of the S.S. Marina, also gave a good exhibition of skill on stilts.

There was a large attendance last night at a concert given in the school room of St. John Presbyterian church. The programme, which was of very high class, consisted of solos, duets, quartettes and readings and was much appreciated. The choir sang a very fine chorus and the following were among the entertainers: Miss Lindsay, Miss Adam, Elmore Holder, Miss Irvine, Miss Titus, S. J. McGowan, Miss Cochrane, Rev. Gordon Dickie, Miss Bailey, D. B. Doig, Miss Robertson, Mr. Holder and the ladies' string quartette.

Jules Whitlock, of St. Stephen, arrived in the city last evening.

PROVINCIAL SUBSIDIES

Sir Wilfrid Introduces New Scale of Rates in the House --What New Brunswick Gets

Ottawa, March 14—Sir Wilfrid Laurier tonight gave notice of an address to his majesty, asking for an amendment to the B. N. A. act concerning the scale of payments to be made by the dominion to the several provinces.

The amendments asked for are as follows:

(a) Instead of the amounts now paid sums hereafter payable yearly by Canada to the several provinces for the support of their governments and legislatures to be, according to population and as follows:

(1.) Where the population of the province is under 150,000, $100,000.

(2.) Where the population of the province is 150,000, but does not exceed 200,000, $150,000.

(3.) Where the population of the province is 200,000, but does not exceed 400,000, $180,000.

(4.) Where the population of the province is 400,000, but does not exceed 800,000, $190,000.

(5.) Where the population is 800,000, but does not exceed a million and a half, $220,000.

(6.) Where the population of the province exceeds 1,500,000, $240,000.

(b.) Instead of an annual grant per head of population now allowed, the annual payment hereafter to be at the same rate of eighty cents per head, but on the population of each province, as ascertained from time to time by the last decennial census, until such population exceeds 2,500,000, and at the rate of 60 cents per head for so much of said population as may exceed 2,500,000.

(c.) An additional allowance to the extent of $100,000 annually for ten years to the province of British Columbia.

We pray that your majesty may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the imperial parliament at its present session repealing the provisions of section 118 of the British North America act of 1867 aforesaid and substituting therefore the scale of payments above set forth, which shall be a final and unalterable settlement of the amounts to be paid yearly to the several provinces of the dominion for their local purposes and the support of their governments and legislatures.

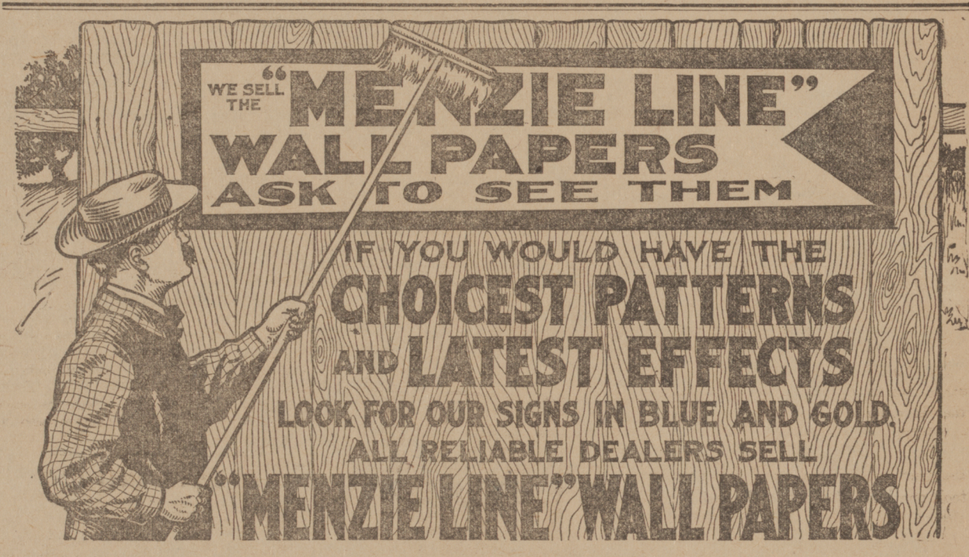
Such grants shall be paid half yearly in advance to each province; but the government of Canada shall deduct from such grants, as against any province, all sums chargeable as interest on the public debt of that province in excess of the several amounts stipulated in the said act. All of which we humbly pray your majesty to take into your gracious and favorable consideration.

John Brittain, general agent of the passenger department of the Northern Railroad, Boston, is in the city. He is a former St. John man.

Fish Ousted, Says Harriman, for Using Million of Funds of the Illinois Central for Himself.



—Asserting that Stuyvesant Fish had used the Illinois Central Railroad as a personal asset, that he had lent securities to the Republic and the Commonwealth Trust companies to pad their statements and that he had lent himself $1,000,000 of its funds, giving practically worthless securities as collateral, E. H. Harriman caused a sensation when he told the Interstate Commerce Commission why he had ousted Mr. Fish from the presidency of the Illinois Central.



Gray's Syrup of Red Spruce Gum

For Coughs and Colds.

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