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Union Clothing Co.

The Viper of Milan.

A ROMANCE OF LOMBARDY.

BY MARJORIE BOWEN.

(Continued.)

"Shame! Calm thyself!" cried Valentine. "What has Tisio done? is this the first ornament he has liked and taken? Have they not orders to let him have his pleasure?"

"Mark me," returned Visconti. "Take care thou dost not make my dislike overrule my ambition—the pair of thee hold your lives solely at my pleasure."

He turned to the page.

"Go, and take thy fool with thee, and keep from my sight."

With a white face the wretched page rose and helped Tisio to his feet, At a whisper from his sister he went meekly, Visconti's mad eyes on him the while.

A terrible silence fell.

Valentine steadied herself against the arras. She was thankful to see Tisio go—alive. To ask why the jewel Tisio had fondled had so angered Gian was beyond her daring. "He is possessed," she murmured to herself.

With an unpleasant laugh Visconti turned to her.

"Didst thou urge him to flaunt me with this?" he asked.

"Flaunt thee?" said Valentine. "How should I know a toy like that could rouse such fury?"

The Duke looked at her keenly, and crushed the bracelet together in his hand.

"As I say, thou darest me far becarse thou art worth something to my plan—but I have the power, and I keep it."

She was silent, and he turned to pass back into his own room. But at the same moment Gianotto spoke. He had entered unobserved, and drew near his master with an obsequious movement.

But Visconti met him with a snarl.

"I will see no one! Did I not say so? Take care, Giannotto, lest I see thee too often."

The secretary paled, but kept his composure. He had learned that to shrink before Visconti only served to arouse him the more.

"I would merely say, my lord," he remarked, "Alberic da Salluzzo awaits further orders."

"Hath he found the Count?" flashed Visconti

"My lord, no; no trace of him, unless these parchments be one."

"Thou hast another there?"

Giannotto bowing low, handed Visconti a packet. His head was bent, his eyes downcast, and the smile that flickered over his thin lips unseen.

"This my lord, was brought in by one of Alberic's men—found an hour since outside the gates of Count Conrad's villa."

It was sealed and inscribed with the Visconti's name.

Visconti seized it, and Giannotto, stepping back, watched furtively his furious face.

Gian looked at the packet. There was no attempt to disguise the writing. It was the same as that upon the parchment Valentine had given him with its brief threat: "Della Scala lives," and the seal of it was the Ladder of the Scaligeri. Long Visconti fingered it in silence, then remembering he was not alone, glanced wrathfully up to see that Valentine was watching him with a faint smile of scorn, and that Giannotto, for all his downcast head, waited with eyes keen with expectation. But Visconti curbed himself. To have the mastery of others he must keep the mastery of himself.

"Giannotto," he said, and the secretary started as if a whip had touched him, "thou wilt see to it that Da Salluzzo searches Milan and all Lombardy—that he spares neither treasure nor blood—and that he brings to me dead, or living, Count Conrad von Schulembourg, and the writer of these parchments."

With an obeisance Giannotto went, in silence, and Visconti slowly broke the seal of the packet. Then he turned to Valentine.

"Art thou waiting to see if it contains a message from thy Conrad?" he said fiercely. "Have no fear! Thou shalt see his head ere night."

She shuddered before the taunt, and turned to leave him. It was always the same; let her meet Visconti with never so high courage, she left him quelled, discomfited, dismayed.

"Go!" shouted Visconti, in sudden fury, and she stayed no longer to question or defy.

Carrying the half-opened packet and the parchment, Visconti re-entered his private room. It was dark and silent; no sound from within or without broke its deserted gloom.

He was alone, nor was he like to be disturbed. Seating himself, not without a furtive glance over his shoulder, he looked at the writing again, the writing and the seal, then opened the packet,

A roll of parchment, close writ, strangely stained in places a reddish brown, fell with a rattle on the floor. Visconti started back, he stared at it, uttered a hoarse sound, stooped and picked it up. The parchment was inscribed with poetry. Here and there among the stains a line was readable.

"Perchance thou wouldst not dare to turn—"

His glance caught the words. He looked around with wild eyes.

A huge black bureau, fitted with many drawers stood in one corner of the room. Visconti, the parchment in his shaking fingers, went to it, still with glances around, and drew out drawer after drawer, till he had found the thing he sought. It was among neat piles of parchments, annotated in Ginnotto's clear, good hand.

Visconti turned them over hastily, till he came upon a document hung with the seals of Verona, a cartel of defiance, neatly endorsed in a clerkly hand, and signed in large, bold writing, "Mastino della Scala."

Eagerly he turned to the cover of the packet, and laid the two writings side by side. They were the same.

Visconti leaned against the black chest, breathing heavily, his face not good to look on its white deviltry.

"He lives! Della Scale lives!" he cried, and struck at himself in his rage. Then his gaze came back to the blood-stained parchment crumpled in his hand.

"And this—? and this—where got he this? The parchment that I read from on the road that day; the parchment that I thought was left in Brescia, in that——"

The words died away on his lips. In a sudden paroxysm of something more than fury, Visconti drove it down among the others within the drawer, and locked and double-locked it in.

The day was fading; in that dull chamber the light fled early and entered late. Visconti glanced again stealthily at the dark arras, faint in the dusk. He strained his ears listening; the air was full of voices, far away pleading, for the most part, yet some so near and threatening, Visconti held his ears. They died away as they had come, but to Visconti the silence was more terrible.

"Giannotto!" he called. "Lights! It grows dark——"

He listened; he heard those sighs again, then suddenly the sound of flying feet, hurrying, hurrying; with a scream of horror Visconti rushed up the steps, calling wildly for lights.

The huge door swung open at his desperate push, then, falling to behind him, shook the tapestry; as it fell into place again a long sighing filled the empty room.

CHAPTER EIGHT.

For A Lady's Gift.

Tomaso Ligozzi sat in a corner of the ruined hut, with enthralled face, listening to Count Conrad, who lounged against the wooden table opposite. It was five days since Conrad's rescue. He had made a recovery the more rapid that no leech had been there to meddle with him. Left to the simplest nursing, the barest needful nourishment, and the vigor of his own constitution, Conrad had rallied, till now, in almost full health, no trace was left of the hollow-faced, emaciated figure Francisco had carried into safety.

The morning after the rescue, it was decided that the hut was no longer a safe shelter; and, carefully destroying all traces of their habitation, the three, under Francisco's leadership, helping Conrad between them, betook themselves to a thicket near. There, in his solitary prowlings to and fro, Francisco had discovered a deep cave underneath a sandbank, the entrance well overgrown with boughs and bushes. Here, not without discomfort, they hid till Conrad should be fit to travel, and comforted themselves for the wretched exchange when they heard the shouts of Alberic's men.

Francisco was disappointed in his new ally. Count Conrad showed a levity, a forgetfulness of injury, that chimed badly with his own deep purposes. Tomaso was his chief reliance; his plan was to secure horses, by fair means or foul, and, as soon as Conrad could sit the saddle, to depart for Ferrara. So far Francisco's stealthy and cautious maneuvres to possess himself of what he needed had been unsuccessful; but at last he had come upon the track of something possible, and today, with Vittore to help him, he had departed to bring back with him the horses for their flight.

Twice between dawn and noon had Alberic's men scoured their neighborhood. Two indeed, had come so near the hiding place that their talk was plain. They spoke of the parchment found the day before and of the Visconti's fury.

It seemed fairly sure that for many hours at least the soldiery would not return, as they could scarce confine their search to the one spot only; so, before Francisco's departure, 'twas arranged between him and Tomaso that their rendezvous at sundown should be the ruined hut where they had first had shelter, there being no means of horsemen treading the thick brushwood around the sand-cave, and the hut affording opportunities of space and movement.

After a weary day and the second visit of the search party, which alarmed them as to the heat of Visconti's pursuit, but reassured them also as to returning to the hut, Tomaso and Conrad reached it an hour before sundown and prepared to wait.

At first keenly anxious, straining for every sound, as time went on, unconsciously they grew more at ease, and Conrad beguiled Tomaso with his talk.

(To be continued.)

Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers.



REAL LACE AND THE THREE FEATHERS.

In the modes of last season a single plume, if it were of sufficient length and thickness, was deemed ample trimming for a dress chapeau. This season, quite in keeping with the general trend toward extravagance, three plumes are the favored quota, and that they must be thick as to flue and of goodly quality goes without saying. In accordance with the changing style of coiffure, the short front chapeau is the one that is selected mostly for carriage and evening wear. The bandeau in the back is still an important item, and the bulk of the trimming is so posed that it leans toward the back of the hat. The charming one pictured is done in white tulline, with a piece of good Brussels lace to cover the tulle-wreathed frame. Pale blue velvet ribbon is caught in a cut-steel buckle across the front, while the plumes are respectively in white, a chamois tint and a deeper shade of blue. The velvet ribbon reappears in the frothy mass of tulline that covers the cache-peigne in the back.

Heart Strength

Heart Strength, or Heart Weakness, means Nerve Strength, or Nerve Weakness—nothing more. Positively, not one weak heart in a hundred is, in itself, actually diseased. It is almost always a hidden tiny little nerve that really is all at fault. This obscure nerve—the Cardiac, or Heart Nerve—simply needs, and must have, more power, more stability, more controlling, more governing strength. Without that the Heart must continue to fail, and the stomach and kidneys also have these same controlling nerves.

This clearly explains why, as a medicine, Dr. Shoop's Restorative has in the past done so much for weak and ailing Hearts. Dr. Shoop first sought the cause of all this painful, palpitating, suffocating heart distress. Dr. Shoop's Restorative—this popular prescription—is alone directed to these weak and wasting nerve centers. It builds; it strengthens; it offers real, genuine heart help.

If you would have strong Hearts, strong digestion, strengthen these nerves — re-establish them as needed, with

Dr. Shoop's Restorative

EULOGIES OF DR. STOCKTON

Provincial Legislature Adjourns Out of Respect to Him---Tributes by Messrs. LaBillois, Grimmer and Allen.

Fredericton, N. B., March 18.—The house met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois—On Friday last we heard of the untimely death of one of New Brunswick's ablest men. I refer to Dr. Stockton, who represented the great constituency of St. John in the house of commons of Canada, and who by his fairness in debate and his ability made for himself a name in that distinguished assembly. I am sure that the members of this house in which he sat for about seventeen years, will all approve of an adjournment until tomorrow out of respect to one who occupied so distinguished a place in this legislature. I therefore move that the house adjourn until tomorrow.

Mr. Grimmer—In the absence of the leader of the opposition, who is in St. John, for the purpose of attending Dr. Stockton's funeral, it may be fitting for me to say a few words. Seldom has such deep regret been shown by the public as at the news of the death of Dr. Stockton. For forty years he was a member of the bar of this province in which he attained a very high position. For 17 years he was a member of this house, and for three years a member of the house of commons. His literary attainments were of a high order. He was a man among men, and a good citizen of the state and it may be truly said of him that he ever led an honest, upright and Christian life. His death is a loss to the country and to us all. But our loss is his gain, for while he has passed away, he has left a record which we may all emulate and a reputation which will grow brighter in future years, than it even is today.

Mr. Allen—It would hardly be proper for me to let this occasion pass without saying something in regard to the late Dr. Stockton, whom I have known for so many years. We have been frequently engaged together in law and literature, and in a social way. I have always found him a man of most excellent spirit and generous in his actions. He had a great reputation at the bar and with a possible exception of the present attorney general no one stood higher. His works on constitutional law and admiralty law were recognized as authorities not only in Canada but in the United States, but he has gone the way of all the earth, and we can only reflect with sorrow at the changes which death brings about, what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.

The house then adjourned.

Sick all the Time with Kidney Trouble

4 BOXES CURED HIM

Mr. Whellam was a mighty ill man this spring. He had been ailing for almost a year. Sharp pains in the back and through the hips. Dull headaches and dizzy spells. Appetite poor—nothing seemed to taste right.

Finally, an old friend told him about a friend who was in just that condition and who was cured by GIN PILLS.

Mr. Whellam tried them. And you would not know him for the same man now. That worried, strained look about the face is gone. His eyes are bright—his complexion rosy. He enjoys what he eats—has gained in weight—and sleeps like a top.

He had kidney trouble. GIN PILLS practically gave new kidneys—healed and strengthened these vital organs—soothed the bladder—and freed the system of uric acid that was poisoning him.

Broad Cove, C.B., July 6 1906.

I received a sample of your Gin Pills last fall. They did me a great deal of good. In fact, they are the best kidney medicine I know of. A neighbor of mine has tried them and they did him more good than all the Doctors' Medicine he took in three months. I will not forget during my lifetime the benefit your Gin Pills have been to me. JOHN WHELLAM.

Are your kidneys sick? Do you feel just as Mr. Whellam did? Then take GIN PILLS on our positive guarantee that they will cure you. To have you give them a fair trial, we send a free sample if you mention this paper. Write to-day to Bole Drug Co., Winnipeg. 84

GIN PILLS are sold by dealers everywhere at 50c a box—or 6 boxes for $2.50.

The Bisley Team Commandant.

Ottawa, March 18—Lieut.-Col. J. M. Wilson, of Hamilton, has been appointed commandant of the Bisley team for this year. The adjutant will be Col. Duff Stewart, of British Columbia.

Ald. J. B. M. Baxter, who went to Montreal last Saturday, is expected home tomorrow.



ALLEGED MORE BOODLING IN 'FRISCO'S AFFAIRS

It is Said That Public Service Companies Paid $450,000 for Franchises--Grand Jury Investigating Stories.

San Francisco, March 18—The action of the grand jury in bringing before it today the members of the board of supervisors aroused the greatest interest in the proceedings of that body, which has been forced to suspend its sessions on account of doubts thrown upon its legality of existence by the attorneys of Mayor Schmitz and Abraham Ruef, indicted for alleged extortion. When it was announced tonight that the grand jury would probably remain in session all night, it was conceded that extraordinary results may be looked for.

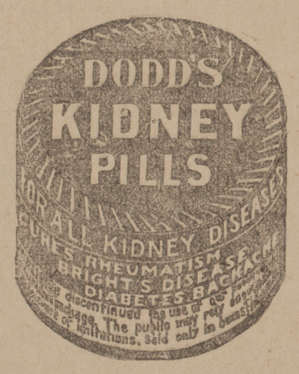
The Evening Bulletin in an extra tonight says that a plot involving the granting the valuable street railways privilege was laid bare today. It was charged that the sum of $450,000 was paid to high officials to permit of the conversion of the street railway systems from cable roads into electric lines and that the bulk of this money was retained by a "mysterious man" and that small sums of money were parceled out to obtain enough votes to permit of the granting of the required franchises. Another story is that rival telephone companies each paid large sums of money, one to shut off competition and the other to procure the right of competing for public patronage. Another charge is that a fund of $26,000 was raised by prize fight promoters to get a monopoly of fight permits.

The railway franchises and the telephone franchises were passed by the supervisors in the day's confusion following the earthquake in April, 1906. It has been believed by persons closely associated with the district-attorney's office that some confessions have been obtained which have direct bearing on charges privately and publicly made. Assistant District-Attorney Heney, a few days ago, when asked for a candid personal opinion of his evidence against officials indicted and about to be indicted, said:

"I have stronger evidence against these people than I had in the land fraud cases in Oregon where the juries convicted."

The annual meeting of the young men's association of Trinity church was held last evening. The election of officers for the year 1907 resulted as follows: President, W. A. Church; vice-president, F. C. Titus; secretary-treasurer, C. S. Tompkins; managing committee, Charles Robertson, Dr. J. Henry Scammell; ushers' committee, W. A. Church (convenor), F. C. Titus, C. S. Tompkins, H. Dobson.

Ottawa, March 18—The outlook for a large number of immigrants this year is exceedingly bright. The department of immigration says that they expect about 300,000 immigrants this year. All the accommodation in the steamers is taken for some time to come.



ACADIA'S CHOICE

James Arthur Estey of Fredericton is 1907 Rhodes Scholar

Wolfville, N. S., March 16—The faculty of Acadia College yesterday awarded the Rhodes scholarship to James Arthur Estey, of Fredericton. He was born in Fredericton in the year 1886. He was educated at the Fredericton High school, from which he graduated in 1902. While



there he captured the mathematics prize and the prize for classics; he also did well in athletics, playing on the school football team for two years.

Coming to Acadia in the fall of 1902, he easily captured the prize of $60 given for best scholarship during the freshman year.

Mr. Estey has made a very fine record in athletics. For five years he has played on the Acadia football team, being captain for the past season. He has also made an excellent record in base ball, basket ball and hockey. He was captain of this year's hockey team. Last June he won the tennis championship.

He is possessed of good literary talent. He has contributed much to the college paper and is at present one of its editors. Music is another forte of his. He has ever been to the fore in musical circles, and during the past year played the pipe organ in the Wolfville Baptist church. He is truly worthy of his great prize. He is a credit to Fredericton and to his alma mater.

EPWORTH LEAGUE OFFICERS

The annual meeting of the St. John District Epworth League Society was held in the school room of Queen Square church last night. Reports from the leagues were handed in and proved highly satisfactory.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Robert Marshall, honorary president; Rev. Jacob Heaney, B. A., Silver Falls, president; Miss Louise Lingley, Queen Square, 1st vice; Miss Leach, Portland, 2nd vice; Mr. Morrissey, Carmarthen street church, 3rd vice; Miss Bettle, Exmouth street church, 4th vice; F. T. Barbour, Centenary, secretary; A. Burley, Carleton, treasurer, and Mr. Golding, Fairville, district representative on conference executive.

LOWER RAILWAY RATES ORDERED

Railway Commission Regulates Passenger Rates on C. P. R. and Grand Trunk.

Ottawa, March 18—The board of railway commissioners held a sitting today for the consideration of the question of requiring the passenger rates of the C. P. R. Company and the G. T. R. Company in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec to be reduced. Mr. Wainwright, general assistant and comptroller, and Mr. Davies, passenger traffic manager of the G. T. R., represented that company, and Mr. Drinkwater, assistant to the president, and Mr. Kerr, passenger traffic manager of the C. P. R., represented the latter company.

The question was taken up with these two railway companies some months ago and statements were promised to be furnished by the companies to the board for the purpose of justifying the rates in force, but these statements have not been furnished.

A short time ago the Kingston Board of Trade laid before the board a complaint respecting rates on the G. T. R., east of Toronto, and several municipal corporations have also recently passed resolutions condemning the passenger rates on the same line. The matter has been the subject of correspondence between the board and the railway companies and no satisfactory answer has, in the opinion of the board, been furnished to the proposition that the rates should be reduced to three cents per mile.

After hearing the representatives of the railway companies it was decided that the rate should be reduced to three cents per mile. As the board had previously received from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta complaints against the charging of passenger rates in these provinces exceeding the rates prevailing in eastern Canada, it was suggested that these should be considered at the same time with the other applications, and the result has been that the rates have been ordered to be reduced in those provinces, as well, to three cents per mile on the lines of the C. P. R. Company east of and including the Calgary and Edmonton railway.

Sixty days have been allowed for putting the new rates in force, as considerable time must necessarily be taken in preparing and printing the new tariffs and distributing them to all the points affected.

The board proposes to immediately notify other railway companies of this action, and to request them to inform the board whether they are willing to similarly reduce their rates and, if not, to inform the board of the grounds upon which they object to doing so.

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STOMACH TROUBLES

To wrong action of the stomach and impaired digestion a host of diseases owe their origin.

When the food is imperfectly digested the full benefit is not derived from it by the body, and then stomach troubles start to appear.

Thus you become thin, weak, nervous and debilitated, energy is lacking, brightness, snap and vigor are lost and in their place come dullness, dizziness, loss of appetite, depression and langour. The great point is to get the stomach back into good shape again so it can properly digest the food, and the easiest, quickest and best way to do it is by the use of

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS

Miss Lizzie Furlotte, Jacquet River, N.B., writes: "I was very much troubled with my stomach and did not know what to do. I consulted several doctors, got medicine from them, but all to no purpose, and was constantly growing worse. One day I had the good luck to meet with a friend who had been troubled in the same way as myself. My friend told me of the wonderful cure Burdock Blood Bitters had made with her and advised me to try a bottle. I did so, and what a happy change the first bottle made. I took two more and am completely cured, and I shall ever sing the praises of B.B.B."

Price $1.00 per bottle or 6 bottles for $5.00.

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