

THURSDAY and FRIDAY Unusual Sale

Men's Spring Overcoats
Regular \$10.00 Value
for \$4.99

Men's Fancy Tweed Suits
Regular \$12.00 value
for \$6.59

Union Clothing Company

26-28 Charlotte St., opp. City Market
ALEX. CORBET, Manager.

THE LONELY GUARD,

—BY—
NORMAN INNES,

Author of "The Surge of War" (London Magazine, Eveleigh Nash, 1900); "Parson Croft" (Eveleigh Nash, 1901).

(Continued)

The Count was a brilliant talker, I found, a polished man of the world, and much as I loathed him, I had to confess that the journey passed pleasantly enough.

Though, but it was not beneath the trees, and ever grew hotter so I thought, though perhaps, I was my companion's praises of the inn at Vornau and the liquor to be had there, that added to my thirst. Not a breath of wind was stirring, and a myriad flies added to our discomfort.

At last Vornau came in sight, the place of our parting, and with a shout to me, von Wegen, who had had difficulty in accommodating his steed to the somewhat leisurely paces of our troop horses, dashed forward as he gave his horse its head, and disappeared at a bend of the path. Leisurely we toiled up the stony track and turned the corner to see the Count already arrived at the inn, and the landlord setting a table beneath the shade of a neighbouring tree. Bread, cheese, fruit and two flasks of wine were upon the board when we drew rein before the door, and as the troopers took charge of our horses, the Count and I seated ourselves in the shade. In a moment my glass was filled, and von Wegen was drinking to my journey to Salzburg and the success of the Austrian army.

No fault could I find with toasts such as these, no fault with the wine and we two made a leisurely meal, while our men lay not a score yards away with cans beside them.

At length, it must have been after nine, von Wegen called for the doorman, and as a trooper led up his horse, prepared to mount.

He bade me farewell from the saddle, and must needs grasp my hand, and wish me a prosperous return to the castle. He smiled in my face as he shook the reins.

"Farewell, Captain von Lesly," cried he, "may fortune prosper thee in Rohn."

Away he rode down the street, as I drained my glass—the second flask was but half emptied—overjoyed to be rid of the fellow.

My men were still busy with the liquor the Count had provided, and I, tilting the remainder of the unfinished bottle into my glass, lay back in my chair as the gallop of the horse upon the highway grew faint in the distance.

I had good cause to be satisfied. I had come scathless out of a difficult position, the result of my own rashness; nay, with no so I held, I was rid of a knave whose rivalry I feared. Elsa von Rohn I had sworn should never be his, nay, under the influence of the wine, my brain wove other schemes for the lady's future, in which, need it be said, I played a part.

How long I sat dreaming before the trestle-table with the sunlight filtering through the leaves, I knew not, but suddenly I was aware of bottles and glasses being noisily removed by the landlord. I stared about me, blinking; there were folk in the street.

At length Rohn came in sight, Rohn and his mighty crag, and for some reason, I know not wherefore, I raised a shout at the sight, a shout that my troopers echoed, and that the blue-clad hills flung back across the valley. Then my brain grew clearer with the wind blowing cool in my face, and once more I fell to thinking with relief of von Wegen's departure. I glanced at my men, bade one strap, and flicked a leaf from my tunic here and there, as we cantored up to the castle gate.

My corporal was standing at the porter's side, moustache he looked at me curiously as I returned his salute and dismounted.

"What is it, man?" I demanded with some little heat, as his eyes remained fixed inquiringly on mine. I was blind for sleep, for the glare of the high-road, and all I longed for rest.

"In the matter of His Excellency the Count and the Countesses?" he replied.

and a knot of children had gathered beneath the trees. I rubbed my eyes as it dawned upon me that I had been asleep. I rose clumsily, knocking my scabbard against the leg of my chair, the children turned at the noise to gaze at the Austrian, evidently a sight rare enough in Vornau. At the same instant I became aware of what it was that had hitherto claimed their interest. On the ground beneath the tree, but in a patch of sunlight, lay my troopers, sound asleep.

I was annoyed, but could scarce blame my men for following the example set them by their captain. Heaven knows, my eyes were heavy, and yet, my head swimming. A cur with my foot, nearly stumbled, and can remember wondering if the peasants set me down for drunk. What ever my state, there was no disguising that of the troopers.

"Rouse, ye lads," cried I, as they looked up at me bleary-eyed and flushed of face. They recoiled to their horses, staring stupidly at the children, as if doubtful as to where they were.

I glanced at the sun; it was high overhead.

"What is the hour?" cried I to the landlord, who was watching our setting forth.

"An hour after noon, Excellency," he replied, doing his best to hide a smile.

"Dinner better," growled I, as I pulled myself into the saddle and the grey plunged in the stony track. I had meant to return by the high road, but the shade of the forest path was tempting, and into the shadows I plunged, the huskars following me with many a curse for awkwardness of their steeds. Blundering behind me they came, and I cursed them in my turn for lack of horsemanship, cursed them in English, and here and there a Gaelic oath to their great astonishment—mayhap they held me drunken as were they.

Never shall I forget that ride, though to tell truth I could recall no single incident of those dozen miles. It lives in my memory as some nightmare vision in which I and two others astride enchanted steeds scoured a trackless forest to gain a castle upon a rock in a valley where dwelt my heart's desire. So far as I can remember, one of my troopers fell from his saddle, and had to be set on his feet by his fellow, once my grey stumbled and recovering itself, spurred madly, a mile down that stony path.

It was the heat of the day, the strength of the liquor I had drunk—the men could not have drunk less than a gallon between them as they confessed to their ally, von Wegen, paying—what had set my brain reeling? By mischance we overshot the mark by a good mile, though whether the bridge path led, I knew not, and had to force a way through a growth of young beech and fern the Rhonan ere we gained the high-road.

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"In the matter of His Excellency the Count and the Countesses?" he replied.

"Devil take the Count," cried I. What was the Count to me, so long as my lass lay 'twixt him and Rohn. And the Countesses? inquired Karl Knecht, paying no heed to my ill-humour.

ladies dead and buried or fled, or what, thou fool that thou plaguist me.

The honest face of my corporal grew grave in an instant. "May it please thee, the Countesses of von Rohn rode away with the Count von Wegen some two hours before noon, with a couple of the men for escort. The men returned alone an hour ago, in obedience to the Count's orders."

My brain had grown clear in a moment, though as I listened to his simple tale, my tongue seemed tied. "And the others?" I cried, breaking in upon his speech. "The others?"

As yet they have not returned."

(To be Continued.)

LONG LIFE IN SOUR MILK

Chicago, April 1.—Samuel Fallows, bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church and founder of Christian Psychology—a combination of faith cure and medicine—now in his seventy-third year, believes that men ought to live in their prime at eighty and live to be 120 years old. Here is the explanation he gave tonight.

Drink sour milk or pure buttermilk two or three times a day.

Avoid too strenuous living.

Go to bed early and get up, with the rising sun.

Take plenty of exercise of a kind not associated with your actual employment.

Keep a clear conscience.

I love God and be square with your fellow men.

Drink some more sour milk.

The prelate said: "I am indebted for my material to three sources:

1. The Bible.

2. A new book published by Prof. Elie Metchnikoff, a French scientist.

3. Science in general.

Metchnikoff is one of the professors in the Pasteur Institute in Paris, is the greatest exponent in the world of the theories of Darwin. It is his business to hunt in diseases and their remedies. In a new book Metchnikoff points out that the reason men do not live to a great age is because under modern conditions the arteries harden with advancing age, due to deposits of calcareous substances.

"It is as certain as the law of gravitation that this condition is sour milk. The sheaths of the arteries are softened by the milk. The principle of life is sound as the virus theory in hydrophobia and antitoxin and vaccination for other ailments."

Metchnikoff declares that sour milk or pure buttermilk should be drunk twice or three times a day.

"He declares that after years would be they do so. Now, the natural age of man, just after the flood, the prophet of God said: 'And the days of man are 120.'"

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GOVERNMENT AXE FALLS ON OFFICIALS

Ottawa, April 1.—"It is my duty to inform the house," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the orders of the day being called, "what action has been taken by the government on the report of the civil service commission."

"The house is aware that on two previous occasions I stated that the report, in so far as it concerned the department of marine and fisheries called for consideration and action by the government. My honorable friend, who is in charge of that department, has been engaged for some time as far as his other duties will permit him, investigating his department, so as to determine in what respect it could be reformed. In the discharge of that duty one of the officers of that department was suspended by him some few weeks ago."

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their views. The house is aware that this commission has made a report which is pretty general and broad.

Laurier Non-committal.

Mr. Borden asked if the commission was to deal with the departments generally or solely with matters advanced by the civil service commission. The leader of the opposition also wanted to know if the government came to a conclusion as a matter of policy in regard to civil service, that they would adopt a system of competitive examination by an independent commission.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said he would answer the first by bringing down the order in council appointing the royal commission, as to civil service reform it would be better that the members should have before them printed copies of the civil service commission before the government made a pronouncement.

The two officials who have been suspended are J. F. Fraser, commissioner of lights, and J. U. Gregory, Quebec agent.

A. W. Owen, accountant, was suspended some time ago.

Col. Gourdeau, deputy minister of marine and fisheries sent in his resignation this morning. He asks for six months leave of absence.

Government Will Act.

"It is the intention of the government to deal as soon as possible with the various questions brought to the attention of the country in this report. I cannot say that during the present session it will be possible perhaps to go very far. Having sat for something like four months, and all being anxious to get to the blessings of a prorogation if such a thing can be effected during the year 1903, at all events it is the intention of the government to proceed as far and as speedily as it is possible to go during the present session."

"There is the broad question of civil service reform, which is generally understood. I understand that the commissioners have made a general representation on this point, though, as far as I am concerned, I must say I have had no opportunity to read the report, except as I have seen it in the newspapers. But there is this general recommendation, but everybody has noticed that while the members of the commission have made a recommendation in that line, they have not embodied their views in the shape of a bill, as they did on the question of superannuation, for instance. And therefore the idea having been brought here without more specification than this; it may require some time before a bill can be prepared on that line. All I have to say at this moment is that it is the intention of the government to deal with the question and all the questions brought up by the report of the commission as speedily as it is possible to do so."

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