

Fancy Baskets

We will clear out our remaining stock of Fancy Baskets at 10% OFF. Music Baskets, Work Baskets, Trunk Baskets, beautifully lined with satin. Come and make your selection early, before they are picked over.

E. N. HUNT, 100 Dundas Street

The Face Behind the Mask

A Romance.

Sir Norman compressed his lips as closely as if they were forever sealed, and came forward accordingly. Leaning over the edge of the ebony caisson, he found that it contained nothing but water, for he labored under a vague and unpleasant idea that, like the wretched child in "Macbeth," it might be filled with serpents' blood and children's brains. La Masque opened her golden casket and took from it a portion of red powder, with which it was filled. Casting it into the caisson, she murmured an invocation in Sanscrit or Coptic, or some other unknown tongue, and slowly there arose a dense cloud of dark red smoke, thickly filled the room. Had Sir Norman ever read the story of Aladdin, he would probably have thought of it then; but the young courier did not greatly affect literature of any kind, and thought of nothing now but of seeing something when the smoke cleared away. It was rather long in doing so, and when it did, he saw nothing at first but his own handsome, half-serious, half-credulous face; but gradually a picture, distinct and clear, formed itself at the bottom, and Sir Norman gazed with bewildered eyes. He saw a large room filled with a sparkling crowd, many of them ladies, splendidly arrayed and sparkling in jewels, and foremost among them stood one whose beauty surpassed anything he had ever before dreamed of. She wore the robes of a queen, purple and ermine—diamonds blazed on the beautiful neck, arms and fingers, and a tiara of the same brilliant crowned her regal head. In one hand she held a scepter, what seemed to be a throne was behind her, but some thing which surprised Sir Norman most of all was to find himself standing beside her, the cynosure of all eyes. While he yet gazed in mingled astonishment and incredulity, the scene faded away and another took its place. This time a dungeon-cell, damp and dismal; walls and floor and ceiling covered with green and hideous slime. A small lamp stood on the floor, and by its sickly, watery gleam, he saw himself again standing, pale and dejected, near the wall. But he was not alone; the same glittering vision in purple and diamonds stood before him, and suddenly he drew his sword and plunged it up to the hilt in her heart! The beautiful vision fell like a stone at his feet, and the sword was drawn out reeking with her life-blood. This was a little too much for Sir Norman, and with an expression of indignant consternation he sprang upright. Instantly it all faded away, and the reflection of his own excited face looked up at him from the caisson. "I told you not to speak," said La Masque, quietly; "but you must look on still another scene."

Again she threw a portion of the contents of the casket into the caisson, and "spoke" the words of power. Another cloud of smoke arose and filled the room, and when it cleared away Sir Norman beheld a third and less startling sight. The scene faded away, and he found himself standing, pale and dejected, near the wall. But he was not alone; the same glittering vision in purple and diamonds stood before him, and suddenly he drew his sword and plunged it up to the hilt in her heart! The beautiful vision fell like a stone at his feet, and the sword was drawn out reeking with her life-blood. This was a little too much for Sir Norman, and with an expression of indignant consternation he sprang upright. Instantly it all faded away, and the reflection of his own excited face looked up at him from the caisson. "I told you not to speak," said La Masque, quietly; "but you must look on still another scene."

"Do you know those two last figures?" asked the lady. "I do," said Sir Norman, promptly; "it was Ormiston and myself." "Right!" exclaimed Sir Norman, with a perceptible start. "Which one, madam?" "If you cannot tell that, neither can I. If there is anything further you wish to see, I am quite willing to show it to you."

"I'm obliged to you," said Sir Norman, stepping back; "but no more at present, madam, that I'm some day to murder a lady, especially one so beautiful as she I just now saw?"

"I have said nothing—all you've seen will come to pass, and whether your destiny be for good or evil, I have nothing to do with it, except," said the sweet voice, earnestly, "that if La Masque could strew Sir Norman King-kley's pathway with roses, she would most assuredly do so."

"Madam, you are too kind," said the young gentleman, laying his hand on his heart, while Ormiston scowled darkly—more especially as I have the misfortune to be a perfect stranger to you."

"Not so, Sir Norman. I have known you this many a day; and before long we shall be better acquainted. Permit me to wish you good evening."

At this gentle hint, both gentlemen bowed themselves out, and soon found themselves in the street, with very different expressions of countenance. Sir Norman looked considerably pleased and decidedly puzzled, and Ormiston looking savagely and uncompromisingly jealous. The animated skeleton who had admitted them closed the door

after them; and the two friends stood in the twilight on London Bridge.

CHAPTER II.

"Well," said Ormiston, drawing a long breath, "what do you think of that?" "Think? Don't ask me yet," said Sir Norman, looking rather bewildered. "I'm in such a state of mystification that I don't rightly know whether I'm standing on my head or feet. For one thing, I have come to the conclusion that your masked lady-love must be enchantingly beautiful."

"Have I not told you that a thousand times, O thou of little faith? But why have you come to such a conclusion?"

"Because no woman with such a figure, such a voice and such hands could be otherwise."

"I knew you would own it some day. Do you wonder now that I love her?" "Oh, as to loving her," said Sir Norman, coolly, "that's quite another thing. I could no more love her for her hands, voice and shape, than I could a figure in wood or wax; but I admire her vastly, and think her extremely clever. I will never forget that face in the caisson. It was the most exquisitely beautiful I ever saw."

"In love with the shadow of a face! Why, you are a thousandfold more absurd than I."

"No," said Sir Norman, thoughtfully, "I don't know that I'm in love with it; but if ever I see a living face like it, I certainly shall be."

"How did La Masque do it?" "I wonder?" "You had better ask her," said Ormiston, bitterly. "She seems to have taken an unusual interest in you at first sight. She would strew your path with roses, forsooth! Nothing early, I believe, would make her say anything half so tender to me."

Sir Norman laughed and stroked his mustache complacently. "All a matter of taste, my dear fellow; and these women are noted for their perfection in that line. I begin to admire La Masque more and more, and I think you had better give up the chase, and let me take your place. I don't believe you have the ghost of a chance, Ormiston."

"I don't believe it myself," said Ormiston, with a desperate face; "but until the plague carries me off I cannot give her up, and the sooner that happens the better. Ha! what is this?"

It was a piercing shriek—no unusual sound; and as he spoke the door of an adjoining house was flung open, a woman rushed wildly out, and an adjoining street and disappeared.

"What's all this about?" demanded Ormiston. "That's a question I can't take upon myself to answer," said Sir Norman, "and the only way to solve the mystery is to go and see."

"It may be the plague," said Ormiston, hesitating. "Yet the house is not marked. There is a watchman. I will ask him."

The man with the halberd in his hand was walking up and down before an adjoining house, bearing the ominous red cross and piteous inscription: "Lord, have mercy upon us!"

"I don't know, sir," was his answer to Ormiston. "If anyone there has the plague they must have taken it lately; for I heard this morning that there was to be a wedding there tonight."

"I never heard of anyone screaming in that fashion about a wedding," said Ormiston, doubtfully. "Do you know who lives there?"

"No, sir. I only came here, myself, yesterday, but two or three times today I have seen a very beautiful young lady looking out of the window."

Ormiston thanked the man, and went back to report to his friend. "A beautiful young lady," said Sir Norman, with energy. "Then I mean to go directly up and see about it, and you can follow or not, just as you please."

So saying Sir Norman entered the open doorway and found himself in a long hall, flanked by a couple of doors on each side. These he opened in rapid succession, finding nothing but silence and solitude; and Ormiston, upon reflection, chose to follow—ran up a wide and sweeping staircase at the end of the hall. Sir Norman followed him, and they came to a hall similar to the one below. A door to the right lay open; and both entered without ceremony and looked around.

[To Be Continued.]

DR. PIERCE'S FAVORITE PRESCRIPTION

"I had been a sufferer for many years from nervousness with all its symptoms and complications," writes Mrs. O. N. Fisher, 1361 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. "I was constantly going to see a physician or purchasing medicine. In the spring of 1897 my husband induced me to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. After taking one bottle and following your advice I was so encouraged that I took five more bottles, and then stopped for several weeks as I felt so much better, but still I was not completely cured. I commenced taking it again and felt that I was improving faster than at first. I am not now cross and irritable, and I have a good color in my face, have also gained about ten pounds in weight and one thousand pounds of comfort, for I am a new woman once more and your advice and your 'Favorite Prescription' is the cause of it, coupled with the 'Pleasant Pellets' which are not to be dispensed with. I took eight bottles of the 'Prescription' the last time, making fourteen in all, and will not take any more unless you so advise, for I do not see as I need it."

makes weak women STRONG sick women WELL.

Pure Indian or Ceylon.

Make your Tea in an earthen pot, use boiling water, let it draw seven minutes. Buy our 25c or 35c Indian or Ceylon.

Fitzgerald, Seandrett & Co. 168 DUNDAS ST.

DESTROYED BY BRITISH GUNS

Continued from page 1.

In the different laagers as Thanksgiving for the victories of Colenso, Stormberg and Modder River.

Durban, Tuesday, Dec. 19.—The Norwegian 2nd Regiment, from Java, loaded with stretchers and railway sleepers, has been captured near Delagoa Bay and brought here by the British second-class cruiser Forte.

THE CANADIANS

Reported Acceptance of an Offer to Furnish a Squadron of Rough Riders.

London, Tuesday, Dec. 26.—It is announced that the government has accepted another offer of a squadron of Canadian rough riders.

TRANSPORTATION. Ottawa, Dec. 25.—Borden was busy all day in his office, assisted by members of his staff. Transport arrangements had been made, and the cavalry will be sent by the Montezuma, the artillery to be divided between the Laurentian and the Pomeranian. An extra number of horses will also be sent by the Laurentian and Pomeranian.

FOR BATTERY D. Port Hope, Ont., Dec. 26.—Lieut. Col. McLean received his instructions yesterday regarding recruiting for Battery D. for special service in South Africa. The following have applied to join the battery: V. A. Hall, E. Vett, J. Weston, J. Steves, J. Rosevear, T. Weston, F. Outram, J. Pillon, J. Hutchinson, C. Britton, C. W. Baker, G. Hancock, D. Fleming, T. Crosby, R. Kidner, G. Wreyeroff, W. Welch, Harry Kerr, David H. Galley, Wm. Chown, Fred Scollie, T. M. Sergeant, Hutchinson, James N. Moffatt, R. Cairns, Lieut. Bradburn, Reginald Black, Wm. Moffatt, Thos. Taylor, A. T. Smith, Thos. Kerr, Sergt. C. M. McCarty and J. Harcourt.

AT HAMILTON. Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 26.—The command of the local corps still continues to receive applications from a large number of men who are anxious to go to South Africa, but the medical examiner has not yet been appointed.

Quebec, Dec. 26.—Capt. E. Laliberte, of the Quebec Field Battery, has volunteered to form part of the second contingent. The order, instructing three sergeants of the garrison companies and one sergeant from the field battery, in addition to Capt. Duplessis, to proceed to England to take a long course in artillery, has been canceled.

RED CROSS WORK. Toronto, Dec. 26.—Dr. Ryerson, chairman of the Red Cross executive, announces that the society proposes to furnish the second Canadian contingent, as the first, with bath towels, 2,000 handkerchiefs, 250 pairs of slippers, 400 pairs of socks, 2,000 wooden pipes, lime juice, cordial, beef iron and wine, cocoa cocoa wine, fullers' earth, toilet soap, stationery and surgical dressings. Subscriptions are invited to come in for the work from friends in the United States.

THE RED CROSS TO MCKINLEY. New York, Dec. 26.—John V. L. Pruyn, chairman of the committee to aid the Red Cross within the Boer lines, sent the following dispatch to President McKinley yesterday: "With cordial Christmas greetings, I venture to express the wish that the United States government, as its Christmas gift to civilization, tenders its good offices or their equivalent to the beleaguered South African, thereby preparing a way for a treaty of peace, which, with full honor and friendly sentiments to Great Britain, shall forever guarantee absolute independence to our struggling sister republics."

Mr. Pruyn said that the committee had received about \$3,000 to aid the work of the Red Cross within the Boer lines.

Will Sail in Two Weeks [Special to The Advertiser per C.P.R.] Ottawa, Dec. 26.—It is expected that the first steamer with a part of the contingent will sail from Halifax about Jan. 10. This will be the Laurentian. It will be followed by the Pomeranian two or three days later, and by the Montezuma on or about Jan. 21.

FOR THE WIVES AND CHILDREN

Of Soldiers at the Front—Queen's Christmas Tree at Windsor.

New York, Dec. 26.—The Christmas tree party, over which Queen Victoria will preside today, to which are invited the wives and children of the soldiers to the front, has been arranged on a magnificent scale, says a London dispatch.

The state apartments in all their magnificence of rich carpets and regal appointments are to be thrown open to the Queen's humble guests. The rooms have been beautifully decorated with mistletoe, holly and flowers from the royal gardens.

A grand Christmas tree, 25 feet high, stands at the far end of the gorgeous apartment, its branches weighted down with all manner of handsome toys for the children, and lace fichus, brooches, paste buckles and other mementoes for the mothers.

Two tables, each 100 feet long, have been set out for the tea, and Princess Beatrice gave directions that the adjoining grand reception room and the Waterloo chamber be also thrown open to enable the children to play games. The Queen will be wheeled in by her Indian attendant for the distribution of presents, and the children will be conveyed to and from the castle in the royal carriages.

A NURSE BURNED. Toronto, Dec. 26.—Louise Henderson, a nurse at the Children's Shelter, on Adelaide street, was acting as Santa Claus at a Christmas celebration last night, when her dress caught fire. She was badly burned about the face and hands, and was taken to St. Michael's Hospital. Superintendent Bissard, who extinguished the flames, was also burned about the hands.

TRAGEDY AFTER THE CAKE WALK

Fatal Fight on a New York Trolley Car—One Man Killed and Two Wounded.

New York, Dec. 26.—During a riot among 47 negroes, men and women, on a trolley car in Morrisania early today, one man was fatally shot and two dangerously injured. Charles Trassy, who did the shooting, was arrested. There was a cake walk last night in a hall at 167th street and Bath Gate avenue, attended by a large crowd of colored people. The row was started, it is said, by some of the colored men making disparaging remarks about Lizzie Stewart, one of the women aboard. She had been Trassy's partner in the cake walk and he resented the insults.

'PINOS ON THE RUN

A Number of Bands Met and Defeated by the American Forces.

Manila, Dec. 26.—Col. J. Franklin Bell, of the 86th Infantry, entered 150 Filipinos on Thursday near Alaminos, Province of Zambales, and killed, wounded or captured 28 of them. Our troops also obtained possession of a number of rifles and a quantity of ammunition. One American was wounded.

A detachment of the 34th Infantry encountered a band of the enemy on Saturday at Arifa, Province of New Vizcaya, and routed them, killing two and wounding or capturing thirteen. The Americans also seized a quantity of ammunition.

The 21st Regiment attacked a Filipino outpost Sunday near Calamba, scattering them and killing five of the enemy.

The 32nd regiment on Sunday had a brush with the enemy from the mountains northwest of Dinalupitan. One American was wounded. The troops captured 125 head of cattle and brought them to Oranla, Bataan Province.

In the island of Panay, Capt. Brown, city company of the 26th Infantry fought the enemy near Saia. The rebels lost heavily and the Americans captured a number of rifles.

FOUR MEN KILLED

In a Wreck on the Northern Pacific—The Operator Blundered.

Missoula, Mont., Dec. 26.—Four men were killed and several injured today in a wreck on the Northern Pacific Railroad, six miles east of Bear Mouth.

The dead are: Engineer K. B. Rheim, Fireman C. A. Dickson, and two tramps, stealing a ride. Brakeman Wallace Mix was seriously scalped and bruised.

The operator at Bonite allowed the freight train from the west to pass, when it should have been held on the siding. The operator, who was a substitute, has disappeared.

MERELY MENTIONED

The Liberals' appeal in the North Waterloo election case will be heard by the court of appeal in Jan. 9.

Prince Edward county Conservatives have chosen G. O. Allicorn as their candidate for the commons.

Mr. Dennis Donohue, father of Jeremiah Donohue, the well-known oarsman, died on Sunday at Hamilton.

The two and a half year old son of Mr. Madison Fisher, of Glastonbury, was kicked on the leg by a horse the other day and the thigh bone broken in two places. The leg was taken to the St. Thomas hospital, where Dr. Gustin attended him.

The Metropolitan Railway Company has announced its intention to apply to the legislature for powers to run cars over the tracks of the Toronto Railway Company, to carry both passengers and freight from the country to various points in the city.

A well-known and highly esteemed resident of Ottawa, Mr. W. Wright, died on Sunday. He was an old and faithful public servant, having entered the service of the government after having creditably filled the duties of chief clerk in the adjutant-general's office for many years.

The funeral of Major-Gen. Lawton will take place on Dec. 30. From Sir Charles Tupper was given a reception and banquet by the citizens of Grand Forks, B. C.

The C. P. R. express from Montreal to Ottawa was derailed near Lehigh. Driver Corrigan was scalped so severely that he may die. The passengers all escaped injury.

The \$4,000 debt on the Collier Street Methodist Church, Barrie, which has existed for about 35 years, has been cleared off through the exertions of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bartley.

A Toronto dispatch says: All persons engaged in charitable work unite in saying that there was less biting poverty in the city this Christmas tide than ever before in their recollection.

The Beauty That Attracts Men Is not so much in the features as in a clear, healthy complexion, and a plump body filled with the vigor and vitality of perfect health. Pale, weak, languid women are fully restored to robust health by the use of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food, a condensed food which creates rich, pure blood and new nerve tissues.



IT'S A PLEASURE for the cook when she has a big dinner to prepare, or heavy washing or ironing to do, to have her scullies well-filled with well-screened hard coal. Our superior ones will throw out more heat and more replenishing less often than any other coal you can burn.

HUNT BROS.

Seal Brand Coffee

(1 lb. and 2 lb. cans.)

Every bean effuses fragrant Coffee of absolute purity.

It is largely imitated. Examine your purchase closely.

CHASE & SANBORN, MONTREAL AND BOSTON.

A Grocer's Good-Will

grocers for more business on

Tillson's Pan-Dried Rolled Oats

One way we take of doing this is to advertise them extensively direct to the consumer. Another way is—pan-drying the Oats, thereby getting a rich, nut-like flavor that no other method can possibly yield. The flavor itself distinguishes Pan-Dried—the flavor alone ought to obtain a grocer's good-will.

The Tillson Co., Limited, Tillsonburg, Ont.

USE EDDY'S BRUSHES.

The Most Durable on the Market. For Sale Everywhere.

Free Cure For Men.

A new remedy which quickly cures sexual weakness, restores the organs to strength and vigor. Dr. L. E. Knapp, 2022 Hull Building, Detroit, Mich., gladly sends free the receipt of this wonderful remedy in order that every weak man may cure himself at home.

CLARKE & SMITH, Undertakers and Embalmers

Scientific work, first-class appointments. 113 Dundas St. Phone 588.

Railways and Navigation CANADIAN PACIFIC

NEW YEAR'S RATES.

Return tickets will be sold as follows: General Public—Single first-class fare, good Dec. 30, 31, 1899, Jan. 1, 1900, returning until Jan. 2, 1900. Single first-class fare and one-third, good Dec. 29, 30 and 31, 1899, and Jan. 1, 1900, returning until Jan. 3, 1900. Between all stations in Canada on Grand Trunk Railway system. From Grand Trunk stations in Canada to Detroit and Port Huron. From Grand Trunk stations in Canada to Buffalo, but not from Buffalo, Black Rock, Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge, N. Y. Christmas season vacation—Single first-class fare and one-third (on surrender of certificate) from Dec. 9 to 31 inclusive, valid to return until Jan. 1, 1900. E. DE LA HOOKE, C. P. & N. T. agent, corner, M. C. DICKSON, Dist. Pass. Agent.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL "The Niagara Falls Route."

New Year Excursions

Single Fare for Round Trip. Tickets will be issued Dec. 30, 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 2, and at Fare and One-Third for round trip, good Dec. 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 3, and to points West of Detroit, Mich., Dec. 30, 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 2.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RY. Christmas and New Year Holidays

Round trip tickets will be sold Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 1899, and Jan. 1, 1900, good only on date of sale, good returning from destination up to and including Jan. 2, 1900, over the Canadian Pacific, London and west, to points Detroit and west in Central Passenger Association territory, north of Ohio River, including Louisville; east of Lake Michigan; east also of and including cities, Chicago, Peoria, Quincy, Keokuk, Hannibal and St. Louis to Detroit.

WHITE STAR LINE REDUCED FARES.

New York to Liverpool via Queenstown S.S. GERMANIC, Jan. 3..... Noon S.S. OCEANIC, Jan. 24..... Noon S.S. TEUTONIC, Jan. 31..... Noon

*Excellent Second Cabin accommodation on these steamers. *In consequence of the British Government chartering steamers, there will be no sailings on Jan. 10 and 17.

Rates as low as by any first-class line. Berths secured by wire if desired.

E. De La Hooke, Sole Agent for London, "Clock" Corner

The oldest German coal mines were first worked in 1157. They are near Worms. England did not begin to mine its coal until the fourteenth century.