

IN HIS STEPS.

"What Would Jesus Do?"

By Charles M. Sheldon.

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(Continued from last week.)

The Evening News was at present the most sensational paper in Raymond. That is to say, it was being edited in such a remarkable fashion that its subscribers had never been so excited over a newspaper before. First they had noticed the absence of the prizefight, and gradually it began to dawn upon them that The News no longer printed accounts of crime with detailed descriptions of liquor and tobacco being dropped, together with certain other advertisements of a questionable character. The discontinuance of the Sunday paper caused the greatest comment of all, and now the character of the editorials was creating the greatest excitement. A quotation from the Monday paper of this week will show what Edward Norman was doing to keep his promise. The editorial was headed:

"THE MORAL SIDE OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS."

"The editor of The News has always advocated the principles of the great political party at present in power and has therefore discussed all political questions from a standpoint of expediency or of belief in the party as opposed to other organizations. Hereafter, to be perfectly honest with all our readers, the editor will present and discuss political questions from the standpoint of right and wrong. In other words, the first question will not be, 'Is it in the interest of our party?' or 'Is it according to the principles laid down by the party?' but the question first asked will be, 'Is this measure in accordance with the spirit and teachings of Jesus as the author of the greatest standard of life known to men?' That is, to be perfectly plain, the moral side of every political question will be considered, its most important side, and the ground will be distinctly taken that nations as well as individuals are under the same law to do all things to the glory of God as the first rule of action."

"The same principle will be observed in this office toward candidates for places of responsibility and trust in the republic. Regardless of party politics, the editor of The News will do all in his power to bring the best men into power and will not knowingly help to support for office any candidate who is unworthy, however much he may be endorsed by the party. The first questions asked about the man, as about the measure, will be, 'Is he the right man for the place?' 'Is he a good man with ability?'"

There had been more of this, but we have quoted enough to show the character of the editorials. Hundreds of men in Raymond had read it and rubbed their eyes in amazement. A good many of them had promptly written to The News, telling the editor to stop their paper. The paper still came out, however, and was eagerly read all over the city. At the end of the week Edward Norman knew very well that he had actually lost already a large number of valuable subscribers. He faced the conditions calmly, although Clark, the managing editor, grimly anticipated ultimate bankruptcy, especially since Monday's editorial.

Tonight as Henry Maxwell read to his wife he could see in almost every column evidences of Norman's conscientious obedience to his promise. There was an absence of slangy, sensational scare heads. The reading matter under the headlines was in perfect keeping with them. He noticed in two columns that the reporters' names appeared, signed at the bottom, and there was a distinct advance in the dignity and style of their contributions.

"So Norman is beginning to get his reporters to sign their work. He has talked with me about that. It is a good thing. It fixes responsibility for items where it belongs and raises the standard of work done, a good thing all around for public and writers."

Henry Maxwell suddenly paused. His wife looked up from some work she was doing. He was reading something with the utmost interest.

"Listen to this, Mary," he said after a moment, while his voice trembled:

"This morning Alexander Powers, superintendent of the L. and T. R. R. shops in this city, handed his resignation to the road and gave as the reason the fact that certain proof had fallen into his hands of the violation of the interstate commerce law, and also of the state law, which has recently been framed to prevent and punish railroad pooling for the benefit of certain favored shippers. Mr. Powers states in his resignation that he can no longer consistently withhold the information he possesses against the road. He has placed his evidence against the company in the hands of the commission, and it is now for them to take action upon it."

"The News wishes to express itself on this action of Mr. Powers. In the first place, he has nothing to gain by it. He has lost a valuable place voluntarily when by keeping silent he might have retained it. In the second place, we believe his action ought to receive the approval of all thoughtful, honest

citizens who believe in seeing law-abiding and lawbreakers brought to justice, and like this, where evidence is made public, where it is generally the insurance to be made very impossible to Senor Buena. He says Agui bong, and it

officers of the road are often in possession of criminating facts, but do not consider it to be any of their business to inform the authorities that the law is being defied.

"The entire result of this evasion of responsibility on the part of those who are responsible is demoralizing to every young man connected with the road. The editor of The News recalls the statement made by a prominent railroad official in this city a little while ago that nearly every clerk in a certain department of the road who understood how large sums of money were made by shrewd violations of the interstate commerce law was ready to admire the shrewdness with which it was done and declared that they would all do the same thing if they were high enough in railroad circles to attempt it. [This was actually said in one of the general offices of a great western railroad, to the author's knowledge.]

"It is not necessary to say that such a condition of business is destructive to all the nobler and higher standards of conduct, and no young man can live in such an atmosphere of unpunished dishonesty and lawlessness without wrecking his character."

"In our judgment, Mr. Powers did the only thing that a Christian man can do. He has rendered brave and useful service to the state and the general public. It is not always an easy matter to determine the relations that exist between the individual citizen and his fixed duty to the public. In this case there is no doubt in our mind that the step which Mr. Powers has taken commends itself to every man who believes in law and its enforcement. There are times when the individual must act for the people in ways that will mean sacrifice and loss to him of the gravest character. Mr. Powers will be misunderstood and misrepresented, but there is no question that his course will be approved by every citizen who wishes to see the greatest corporations as well as the weakest individual subject to the same law. Mr. Powers has done all that a loyal, patriotic citizen could do. It now remains for the commission to act upon his evidence, which, we understand, is overwhelming proof of the lawlessness of the L. and T. R. Let the law be enforced, no matter who the persons may be who have been guilty."

Henry Maxwell finished reading and dropped the paper.

"I must go and see Powers. This is the result of his promise."

He rose, and as he was going out his wife said:

"Do you think, Henry, that Jesus would have done that?"

Henry Maxwell paused a moment. Then he answered slowly:

"Yes; I think he would. At any rate, Powers has decided so, and each one of us who made the promise understands that he is not deciding Jesus' conduct for any one else, only for himself."

"How about his family? How will Mrs. Powers and Celia be likely to take it?"

"Very hard, I have no doubt. That will be Powers' cross in this matter. They will not understand his motive."

Henry Maxwell went out and walked over to the next block, where the superintendent lived. To his relief, Powers himself came to the door.

The two men shook hands silently. They instantly understood each other without words. There had never been such a bond of union between the minister and his parishioner.

"What are you going to do?" Henry

Maxwell asked after they had talked over the facts in the case and considered them well.

"You mean another position? I have no plans yet. I can go back to my old work as a telegraph operator. My family will not suffer except in a social way."

Alexander Powers spoke calmly, if sadly. Henry Maxwell did not need to ask him how his wife and daughter felt. He knew well enough that the superintendent had suffered deepest at that point.

"There is one matter I wish you would see to," said Powers after awhile, "and that is the work begun at the shops. So far as I know, the company will not object to that going right on. It is one of the contradictions of the railroad world that the Y. M. C. A. and other Christian influences are encouraged by the roads, while all the time the most un-Christian and lawless acts are being committed in the official management of the roads themselves. Of course it is understood that it pays a railroad to have in its employ men who are temperate and honest and Christian. So I have no doubt the master mechanic will have the same courtesy extended to him that I had in the matter of the room and its uses. But what I want you to do, Mr. Maxwell, is to see that my plan is carried out. Will you? You understand what the idea was in general. You made a very favorable impression on the men. Go down there as often as you can. Get Milton Wright interested to provide something for the furnishing and expense of the coffee plant and reading tables. Will you do it?"

"Yes," replied Henry Maxwell. He staid a little longer. Before he went away he and the superintendent had a prayer together, and they parted with that silent hand grasp that seemed to

them like a new token of their Christian discipleship and fellowship.

The pastor of the First church went home stirred deeply by the events of the week. Gradually the truth was growing upon him that the pledge to do as Jesus would was working out a revolution in his parish and throughout the city. Every day added to the serious results of obedience to that pledge. Henry Maxwell did not pretend to see the end. He was, in fact, only now at the very beginning of events that were destined to change the history of hundreds of families, not only in Raymond, but throughout the entire country. As he thought of Edward Norman and Rachel and Mr. Powers and of the results that had already come from their actions he could not help a feeling of intense interest in the probable effect if all the persons in the First church who had made the pledge faithfully kept it. Would they all keep it, or would some of them turn back when the cross became too heavy?

He was asking this question the next morning as he sat in his study when the president of the Endeavor society called to see him.

"I suppose I ought not to trouble you with my case," said young Morris, coming at once to his errand. "But I thought, Mr. Maxwell, that you might advise me a little."

"I'm glad you came. Go on, Fred." Henry Maxwell had known the young man ever since his first year in the pastorate and loved and honored him for his consistent, faithful service in the church.

"Well, the fact is I'm out of a job. You know, I've been doing reporter work on The Morning Sentinel since I graduated last year. Well, last Saturday Mr. Burr asked me to go down the road Sunday morning and get the details of that train robbery at the junction and write the thing up for the extra edition that came out Monday morning, just to get the start of The News. I refused to go, and Burr gave me my dismissal. He was in a bad temper, or I think perhaps he would not have done it. He has always treated me well before. Now, don't you think Jesus would have done as I did? I ask because the other fellows say I was a fool not to do the work. I want to feel that a Christian acts from motives that may seem strange to others sometimes, but not foolish. What do you think?"

"I think you kept your promise, Fred. I cannot believe Jesus would do newspaper work on Sunday, as you were asked to do it."

"Thank you, Mr. Maxwell. I felt a little troubled over it, but the longer I think it over the better I feel."

Morris rose to go, and Henry Maxwell rose and laid a loving hand on the young man's shoulder.

"What are you going to do, Fred?"

"I don't know yet. I have thought some of going to Chicago or some large city."

"Why don't you try The News?"

"They are all supplied. I have not thought of applying there."

Henry Maxwell thought a moment.

"Come down to The News office with me and let us see Norman about it."

So a few minutes later Edward Norman received into his room the minister and young Morris, and Henry Maxwell briefly told the cause of their errand.

"I can give you a place on The News," said Edward Norman, with his keen look softened by a smile that made it winsome. "I want reporters who won't work Sundays. And, what is more, I am making plans for a special kind of reporting which I believe young Morris here can develop because he is in sympathy with what Jesus would do."

(Continued next week.)

County and State.

The South Haven News office is now located in the basement of the Hale block.

Poor specimens of counterfeit half and quarter dollars have been circulated in Berrien county recently.

The new iron bridge across Pine creek, one-half mile west of Hartford, has been completed and accepted by the town board.

The official test of the Hartford water-works system proved satisfactory, and the plant is complete with the exception of the stand pipe, which is now being erected.

The Graham & Morton Transportation Co. were swindled during the past season by bogus tickets, which were printed like the real ones. It is not yet known how many were passed.

J. J. Littlejohn of Allegan visited one of the leading dentists of that city for the purpose of having a tooth extracted, which was accomplished. The shock threw him into apoplexy, which resulted in his death soon after.

Twenty-four cases of appendicitis were received at the university hospital at Ann Arbor during the year ending June 30, 1899, of which 22 were operated upon and two treated without operation. All but two of the patients recovered.

An immense panther, which has terrorized the farmers in the sand hills 12 miles south of Benton Harbor for 10 years past and which is supposed to have killed John Croll, was shot and killed by James Woodward while it was devouring a young calf.

When Cass county built its new court house building the contract was given Jordan E. Gibson. The supervisors became dissatisfied and declared the contract off and finished the building themselves. Gibson began a suit for damages, and in the United States court at Grand Rapids was awarded \$13,022.10.

On a C. & W. M. Ry. train near Hartford a few days ago, one of the passengers was introduced by a stranger to loan him \$300 until they reached Benton Harbor, securing him with a bogus check for \$500. They were to have gone up town together at Benton Harbor to get the money. When the train reached there, the sharper had disappeared.

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