

IN HIS STEPS.

"What would Jesus do?"

By CHARLES W. SHELTON.

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(CONTINUED)

It happened that the week before that anniversary Sunday the Rev. Calvin Bruce, D. D., of the Nazareth Avenue church, Chicago, was in Raymond, where he had come on a visit to some old friends and incidentally to see his old seminary classmate, Henry Maxwell. He was present at the First church and was an exceedingly attentive and interested spectator. His account of events in Raymond, and especially of that Sunday, may throw more light on the entire situation than any description or record from other sources. Dr. Bruce's statement is therefore here given.

[Letter from Rev. Calvin Bruce, D. D., of the Nazareth Avenue church, Chicago, to Rev. Philip S. Caxton, D. D., New York city:] "MY DEAR CAXTON—It is late Sunday night, but I am so intensely awake and so overflowing with what I have seen and heard that I feel driven to write you now some account of the situation in Raymond as I have been studying it and as it has apparently come to a climax today. So this is my only excuse for writing so extended a letter at this time.

"You remember Henry Maxwell in the seminary. I think you said the last time I visited you in New York that you had not seen him since we graduated. He was a refined scholarly fellow, you remember, and when he was called to the First church of Raymond within a year after leaving the seminary I said to my wife: 'Raymond has made a good choice. Maxwell will satisfy them as a sermonizer.' He has been here 11 years, and I understand that up to a year ago he had gone on in the regular course of the ministry, giving good satisfaction and drawing a good congregation to his morning preaching service. His church was counted the largest, most wealthy church in Raymond. All the best people attended it, and most of them belonged. The quartet choir was famous for its music, especially for its soprano, Miss Winslow, of whom I shall have more to say, and on the whole, as I understand the fact, Maxwell was in a comfortable berth, with a very good salary, pleasant surroundings, not a very exacting parish of refined, rich, respectable people, such a church and parish as nearly all the young men in the seminary in our time looked forward to as very desirable.

"But a year ago today Maxwell came into his church on Sunday morning and at the close of his service made the astounding proposition that the members of his church volunteer for a year not to do anything without first asking the question, 'What would Jesus do?' and, after answering it, to do what in their honest judgment he would do, regardless of what the result might be to them.

"The effect of this proposition as it has been met and obeyed by a number of the members of the First church of Raymond has been so remarkable that, as you know, the attention of the whole country has been directed to the movement. I call it a 'movement' because from the action taken today it seems probable that what has been tried here in the First church in Raymond will reach out into other churches and cause a revolution in church methods, but more especially in a new definition of Christian discipleship.

"In the first place, Maxwell tells me he was astonished at the response made to his proposition. Some of the most prominent members in the church made the promise to do as Jesus would. Among them were Edward Norman, the editor of The Daily News, which has made such a sensation in the newspaper world; Milton Wright, one of the leading merchants in Raymond; Alexander Powers, whose action in the matter of the railroads against the interstate commerce laws made such a stir about a year ago; Miss Page, one of Raymond's leading society hostesses, who has lately dedicated her entire fortune, as I understand, to the Christian daily paper and the work of reform in the slum district known as the Rectangle, and Miss Winslow, whose reputation as a singer is now national, but who, in obedience to what she has decided to be Jesus' probable action, has devoted her talent to volunteer work among the girls and women who make up a large part of the city's worst and most abandoned population.

"In addition to these well known people has been a gradually increasing number of Christians from the First church and lately from other churches in Raymond. A large proportion of these volunteers who pledge themselves to do as Jesus would, comes from the Endeavor societies. The young people say that they have already embodied in their society pledge the same principle in the words, 'I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would have me do.' This is not exactly what is included in Maxwell's proposition, which is that the disciples shall try to do what Jesus would probably do in the disciples' place, but the result of an honest obedience to either pledge, he claims, will be practically the same, and he is not surprised that the largest numbers have joined the new discipleship from the Endeavor society.

"I am sure the first question you will ask is, 'What has been the result of this attempt, what has it accomplished, or how has it changed in any way the regular course of the church or the community?' "You already know something from reports of Raymond that have gone over the country that the results have been, but one needs to come here and learn something of the changes in individual lives, and especially the change in the church life, to realize all that is meant by this following of Jesus' steps so literally. To tell all that would be to write a long story or series of stories. I am not in a position to do that, but I can give you some idea perhaps of what has happened here from what has been told me by my friends and Henry Maxwell himself.

"The result of the pledge upon the First church has been twofold—it has brought about a spirit of Christian fellowship which Maxwell tells me never before existed and which now impresses him as being very nearly what the Christian fellowship of the apostles churches must have been, and it has divided the church into two distinct groups of members. The one who have not taken the pledge regard the others as foolishly literal in their attempts to imitate the example of Jesus.

"Some of them have drawn out of the church and no longer attend, or they have removed their membership entirely to other churches. Some are an internal element of strife, and I heard rumors of an attempt on their part to force Maxwell's resignation. I do not know that this element is very strong in the church. It has been held in check by a wonderful continuance of spiritual power, which dates from the first Sunday the pledge was taken a year ago, and also by the fact that so many of the most prominent members have been identified with the movement.

"The effect on Henry Maxwell is very marked. I heard him preach at our state association four years ago. He impressed me at the time as having considerable power in dramatic delivery, of which he himself was somewhat conscious. His sermon was well written and abounded in what the seminary students used to call 'fine passages.' The effect of it was what the average congregation would call pleasing. This morning I heard Maxwell preach again for the first time since then. I shall speak of that further on. He is not the same man. He gives me the impression of one who has passed through a crisis of revolution. He tells me this revolution is simply a new definition of Christian discipleship. He certainly has changed many of his old views. His attitude on the saloon question is radically opposite to the one he entertained a year ago, and in his entire thought of his ministry, his pulpit and parish work I find he has made a complete change. So far as I can understand, the idea that is moving him on now is the idea that the Christianity of our times must represent a more literal imitation of Jesus, and especially in the element of suffering. He quoted to me in the course of our conversation several times the verse from Peter, 'For heretofore were ye called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps,' and he seems filled with the conviction that what our churches need today more than anything else is this factor of suffering for Jesus in some form.

"I do not know that I agree with him altogether, but, my dear Caxton, it is certainly astonishing to note the results of this idea as they have impressed themselves upon this city and upon this church.

"You ask how about the results on the individuals who have made the pledge and honestly tried to be true to it. Those results are, as I have said, a part of individual history and cannot be told in detail. Some of them I can give you, so that you may see that this form of discipleship is not merely sentiment or fine posing for effect.

"For instance, take the case of Alexander Powers, who was superintendent of the machine shops of the L. and T. R. here. When he acted upon the evidence that incriminated the road, he lost his position, and, more than that, I learn from my friends here his family and social relations have become so changed that the family no longer appear in public. They have dropped out of the social circle where once they were so prominent. By the way, Caxton, I understand in this connection that the commission, for one reason and another, postponed action on this case, and it is now rumored that the L. and T. R. will pass into a receiver's hands very soon. The president of the road, who, according to the evidence submitted by Powers, was the principal offender, has resigned, and complications which have arisen since point to the receivership. Meanwhile the superintendent has gone back to his old work as a telegraph operator. I met Maxwell at the church yesterday. He impressed me as a man who had, like Maxwell, gone through a crisis in character. I could not help thinking of him as being good material for the church of the first century, when the disciples had all things in common.

"Or take the case of Mr. Norman, editor of The Daily News. He risked his entire fortune in obedience to what he believed was Jesus' probable action and revolutionized his entire conduct of the paper at the risk of a failure. I send you a copy of yesterday's paper. I want you to read it carefully. To my mind, it is one of the most interesting and remarkable papers ever printed in the United States. It is open to criticism, but what could any mere man attempt in this line that would be free from criticism? Take it all in all, it is so far above the ordinary conception of a daily paper that I am amazed at the result. He tells me that the paper is beginning to be read more and more by the Christian people of the city. He is very confident of its final success.

"Read his editorial on the money question; also the one on the coming election in Raymond, when the question of license will again be an issue. Both articles are of the best from the point of view. He says he never begins an editorial or, in fact, any part of his newspaper work without first asking, 'What would Jesus do?' The result is certainly apparent.

"Then there is Milton Wright, the merchant. He has, I am told, so revolutionized his business that no man is more beloved today in Raymond. His own clerks and employees have affection for him that is very touching. During the winter, while he was lying dangerously ill at his home, scores of clerks volunteered to watch or help in any possible way, and his return to his store was greeted with marked demonstrations. All this has been brought about by the element of personal love introduced into the business. This love is not mere words, but the business itself is carried on under a system of cooperation that is not a patronizing recognition of inferiority, but a real sharing in the entire business. Other men on the street look upon Milton Wright as odd. It is a fact, however, that while he has lost heavily in some directions he has increased his business and is today respected and honored as one of the best and most successful merchants in Raymond.

"And there is Miss Winslow. She has chosen to give her great talent to the poor and wretched of the city. Her plans include a musical institute where choruses and classes in vocal music shall be a feature. She is enthusiastic over her life work. In connection with her friend Miss Page she has planned a course in music which, if carried out, will certainly do much to lift up the lives of the people down there. I am not too old, my dear Caxton, to be interested in the romantic side of much that has also been tragic here in Raymond, and I must tell you that it is well understood there that Miss Winslow expects to be married this spring to a brother of Miss Page, who was once a society leader and clubman and who was converted in a tent where his wife that is to be took an active part in the service. I don't know all the details of this little romance, but I can imagine there is a little story wrapped up in it, and it would be interesting reading if we only knew it all.

"These are only a few illustrations of results in individual lives owing to obedience to the pledge. I meant to have spoken of President Marsh of Lincoln college. He is a graduate of my alma mater, and I knew him slightly when I was in the senior year. He has taken an active part in the recent municipal agitation, and his influence in the city is regarded as a very large factor in the coming election. He impressed me, as did all the other disciples in this movement, as having fought out some hard questions and as having taken up some real burdens that have caused and still do cause that suffering of which Henry Maxwell speaks, a suffering that does not eliminate but does appear to intensify a positive and practical joy.

"But I am prolonging this letter, possibly to your weariness. I am unable to avoid the feeling of fascination which my entire stay here has increased. I want to tell you something of the meeting in the First church today.

"As I said, I heard Maxwell preach. At his earnest request I was prepared for him the Sunday before, and this was the first time I had heard him since the association four years ago. His sermon this morning was as different from his sermon then as if it had been thought out and preached by some one living on another planet. I was profoundly touched. I believe I actually shed tears once. Others in the congregation were moved like myself. His text was: 'What is that to thee? Follow thou me.' And it was a most unusually impressive appeal to the Christians of Raymond to obey Jesus' teachings and follow in his steps, regardless of what others might do. I cannot give you even the plan of the sermon. It would take too long. At the close of the service there was the usual after meeting of the First church. Into this meeting have come all those who made the pledge to do as Jesus would do, and the time is spent in mutual fellowship, confession, questions as to what Jesus would do in special cases and prayer that the one great guide of every disciple's conduct may be the Holy Spirit.

"Maxwell asked me to come into this meeting. Nothing in all my ministerial life, Caxton, has so moved me as that meeting. I never felt the Spirit's presence so powerfully. It was a meeting of reminiscence and of the most loving fellowship. I was irresistibly driven in thought back to the first years of Christianity. There was something about all this that was apostolic in its simplicity and Christ imitation.

"I asked questions. One that seemed to arouse more interest than any other was in regard to the extent of the Christian disciples' sacrifice of personal property. Henry Maxwell tells me that so far as he has interpreted the spirit of Jesus in such a way as to abandon his earthly possessions, give away all his wealth or in any literal way imitate the Christians of the order, for example, of St. Francis of Assisi. It was the unanimous consent, however, that if any disciple should feel that Jesus in his own particular case would do that there could be only one answer to the question. Maxwell frankly admitted that he was still, to a certain degree, uncertain as to Jesus' probable action when it came to the details of household living, the possession of wealth, the holding of certain luxuries. It is, however, evident that very many of these disciples have repeatedly carried their obedience to Jesus to the extreme limit, regardless of financial loss. There is no lack of courage or consistency at this point. It is also true that some of the business men who took the pledge have lost great sums of money in this imitation of Jesus, and very many have, like Alexander Powers, lost valuable positions owing to the impossibility of doing what they had been accustomed to do and at the same time doing what they felt Jesus would do in the same place. In connection with these cases it is pleasant to record the fact that many who have suffered in this way have at once been helped financially by those who still have means. In this respect I think it is true that the disciples have all things in common. Certainly such scenes as I witnessed at the First church at that after service this morning I never saw in my church or any other. I never dreamed that such Christian fellowship could exist in this age of the world. I am almost incredulous as to the witness of my own senses. I still seem to be asking myself if this is the close of the nineteenth century in America.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

It is reported that a young man who lately was "caught" but promised to be good if he didn't have to go to jail, received by freight a large box marked "medicines" the other day. Should there prove to be anything suspicious emanating from this source, there is a little cell reserved for him, in which he may repent at his leisure.

Several citizens of good repute have suggested that the only way left to close up the old saloons is for a mob to raid them. This would be a desperate remedy which would be inexcusable until the laws have had a fair trial. No gentleman, better organized to keep these pigners from capturing the town at the next spring election. That's what they are after. Their present business is not as lucrative as they would like it to be.

A person cannot rent a building to a pignerin William VERY LONG after he knows what is going on and retain his respectability (if he ever had any).

Fresh lingon berries at Anton Sundberg's.

Peter Halborn made a trip to Atwater yesterday.

Capt. Van Sant shook hands with Willmarites this week.

6 per cent money at Bank of Willmar on farm security.

W. J. McDermott, of Kandiyohi, was in the village yesterday.

Mrs. A. Moss is enjoying a visit with relatives at Marshall.

Carl Berg is filling the place of C. Stromberg in Sundberg's feed store.

Dr. C. E. Gerretson, dentist. Office in Mikkelsen block, Willmar.

Mrs. Ella H. Mantor went to Excelsior yesterday to attend a Degree of Honor meeting.

Mrs. E. R. Aldrich and Mrs. Wm. Hunter, of Benson, stopped off here yesterday for a visit.

WANTED—A small house, with a good barn. Third ward preferred. Inquire at this office.

Rev. S. A. Hunt, of Strandberg, S. D., conducted services in the Swedish Baptist church last night.

Willmar Market Report

[Corrected every Tuesday afternoon by ANTON SUNDBERG, dealer in Flour, Feed, Fruit and Vegetables.]

Wheat No. 1... \$0.54
Wheat No. 2... 52
Wheat No. 3... 49
Wheat No. 4... 46
Oats... 45
Barley... 45
Rye... 45
Potatoes... 25
Eggs... 18
Butter... 22
Onions... 10
Beans... 10

Hay... \$2.00
Cattle... \$2.00
Hogs... \$2.00
Sheep... \$3.00
Chickens... 45
Turkeys... 65
Ducks... 55
Poultry... 65
Hides... 10
Wool... 13
Flour... \$4.00
Bran... 10
Shorts... 11

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance

I will loan money at low rate of interest and on favorable terms. Will buy and sell real estate. Insurance written in reliable insurance companies.

DR. NIVEN

Real Estate Transfers

Nov. 17—Andrew A. Swind to Sophia A. DeRue—NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 27... 600.00

Nov. 18—Andrew Renstrom to Frederick Homstedt—NE 1/4, Sec. 18; SE 1/4, Sec. 7, N 1/4 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Sec. 16... 7,200.00

Nov. 14—J. N. Smith to Lydia Tommel—part of SE 1/4, Sec. 16... 800.00

Nov. 15—Anton Kaalbach to Ann E. DeFoe—S 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 18; SE 1/4, Sec. 16, 120 acres... 2,800.00

Nov. 21—Peter J. Halborn to Charles H. Sherwood—lots 1 and 2, NE 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 21... 4,750.00

Nov. 15—August Anderson to Ellen Jacobson—lot 1 of lot 1 and 2, Thorpe & Lien's add. block 5... 650.00

Nov. 20—Lars O. Thorpe to Christ Rasmussen—lot 14, block 4... 650.00

READY FOR BUSINESS. Having decided to again enter the field of business in Willmar, we wish to announce to the buying public that we have leased Albert Larson's old stand and have placed therein a well-selected stock of General Merchandise, bought in the eastern market for cash, and we are willing to give the old customers of the Minneapolis Cash Store as well as others the benefit of the bargains that we picked up. Remember the goods are not old and shelf-worn, but new and fresh. Here are a few of the bargains and if you will call you will find many more.

Dry Goods. Dress Goods worth 15c, our price 10c. Other Dress Goods worth 18c and 20c, our price 12 1/2c. Full line Dress Goods worth 35c, our price 23c. Many other bargains just as good as above in Dress Goods line, also in Silks, Velvets and Trimmings of all descriptions. Outing Flannel that cannot be bought elsewhere for less than 8c we offer for 5c. We have an outing flannel worth 10c that we will sell at 7c. Sheetings from 4c per yard, up. A 9-4 sheeting that wholesales at 15c we offer for 10c. Tickings and sheetings at proportionately low prices. Prints sold elsewhere at 5c we sell for 3c.

Remember the place and be sure to call and examine goods and prices. Butter and eggs and other farm produce will be bought at highest price possible. Corner Benson Ave. & 6th St. B. MOE. Willmar, Minnesota.

tion room for the high school classes. Miss Wharton, of Ashland, Wisconsin, came last week to take the second grade in the high school building.

A telegram has been received by Supt. Penno stating that Miss Probstfield will not be able to leave her sister and return to her duties this week.

City water will be brought into the high school building and carried to the third floor. The rooms on the third floor will be used for the chemical and physical laboratories as soon as they can be vacated and fitted up for the purpose.

It has been suggested that the school in the third ward be called the "Lincoln School," and that one of the other new ward buildings be the "Ramsey School," in honor of ex-Gov. Ramsey, the first governor of Minnesota.

The high school pupils have made contributions to pay for the Minneapolis Journal for the reading table.

Contributions of papers or magazines by pupils or patrons of the school will be thankfully received and appreciated.

A knowledge of current events is a necessary part of a pupil's education, and we want to make our reading table as great a factor in this line as possible.

Carl Swedberg entered school in the eighth grade on Tuesday morning. He has been attending a district school about ten miles east of Willmar.

The High School Glee Club will meet on next Saturday evening with Vera Mossberg.

The foot ball game which was to be played on Monday between the Seminary and High School teams was postponed on account of the rain.

Those who attended the husking bee at S. M. Swanson's last Wednesday enjoyed a good time both while husking and during the evening. Mr. Swanson seemed well satisfied with the affair.

Misses Emma and Mary and Mr. Eddie Swanson, of Litchfield, are visiting at the homes of Johnson and Erickson.

Quite a number of relatives and friends spent an enjoyable evening at E. A. Erickson's Friday.

Miss Hilda Swanson, of Willmar, was pleasantly surprised by her many friends Saturday evening. The party took place at the home of her brother, S. M. Swanson, of Svea. About fifty were present. Among them were Misses Ellen Peterson, Hilma Englund, and Ellen Swanson, of Willmar.

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Johnson entertained a number of relatives and friends at a party Sunday evening.

Albert Enblom and Arthur Erickson visited at the former's home Sunday.

A spelling contest was held in Dist. 57 Tuesday evening.

LAKE ELIZABETH. Nov. 20. A graphophone entertainment was given at the schoolhouse in Dist. 38 Thursday evening.

John Dahlin, from Minneapolis, has been up to lease his farm. Albert Anderson will run it another year.

Rev. J. Johnson, of Kokato, conducted services in Norblom's school-house every evening of last week, except Saturday evening.

S. Stenberg is receiving contributions for Mads Anderson, who lost nearly everything he had by fire some weeks ago. Send a dollar to S. Stenberg, Lake Elizabeth, and he will send you a receipt for it.

C. A. Peterson is building a house for A. J. Olson. Mr. Olson intends to move in before Christmas.

Emma Olson, of Dovre, has been visiting friends at this place lately. Charles Johnson is working for G. J. Broom.

One starry evening when your reporter was out looking for shooting stars he heard a wonderful sound, that made him think all the stars were coming down. He was somewhat scared at first, hardly realizing where he was; but after a while he discovered that the music and singing at the buttermaker's house was the source of the thunderous sound.

Albert Olson and John Engstrom bought a fine horse, nine years old, for \$25, but returned it after a week's trial.

Chas. J. Skarstrom and S. Stenberg attended the auction sale at And. Tattling's in Roseland.

The families of Albert Olson and our buttermaker Sunday at Elias Johnson's in Fahlun. The day was spent in a fine social way—singing and playing, reading and praying.

Our storekeeper, Mr. Engberg, made his first trip to Willmar Monday. We also noticed some companion.

At this writing the weather is fine, far beyond expectation. We are not going to kick if it continues till after Christmas.

We wish to announce to the people of Willmar and surrounding country that we have opened up a FEED STORE in the building next door to Westberg, Berg & Co.'s tailor shop, on Benson avenue, where we shall be pleased to cater to your wants in our line. We do not intend to carry a wholesale stock, but it will always be Fresh and Select.

Kindly give us a share of your patronage.

Yours respectfully, O. H. LARSON, I. C. TOLLEFSON.