

FAMOUS BOOK OF THE DECADE

Story of a Kansas Preacher's Leap to Literary Fame and Fortune.

INTERESTING CAREER OF THE AUTHOR

Railroad Laborer, Newspaper Man, Physician, Lawyer, Preacher, Author—Most Original Man in His Profession.

"In the place of delivering a sermon on Sunday evenings during the winter I intend to read a story," was the announcement made by pastor of a suburban church in a small western city one Sunday early in the winter of 1895-97. Little did he think as he made the announcement that within a comparatively short time the newswagon on the streets of London would be crying the same story along with their daily papers, and that the people of two continents would be discussing it. Yet that is the history of "In His Steps," a book which has had a sale unparalleled in the history of literature—three million copies in the first four months of 1899.



Charles M. Sheldon

Remarkable changes take place in Raymond, and the movement spreads to many cities of the country. At the end of the year, the largely increased band meets again in the old Raymond church. And yet the work is only begun. The influence of the movement has spread beyond all reckoning, and the pastor of the church can see visions of a regeneration of a Christendom when there would be one church without spot or blemish, following Christ, walking obediently in His steps.

Scrofula, a Vile Inheritance.

Scrofula is the most obstinate of blood troubles, and is often the result of an inherited taint in the blood. S. S. S. is the only remedy which goes deep enough to reach Scrofula; it forces out every trace of the disease, and cures the worst cases.

Sketch of the Author. Charles M. Sheldon, the author of this work, is the pastor of the Central Congregational church of Topeka, Kan.—a little, unpretentious chapel in the outskirts of the city. He was dissatisfied with the apparent good his sermons were doing his congregation; he wanted to preach an every-day Christianity in an attractive form; he became convinced that a novel would more nearly accomplish his object than a series of abstract sermons, and "In His Steps" was the result. It was written—a chapter each week—in the little study in one corner of the church, and as each chapter was completed it was read the succeeding Sunday. The story was completed in the spring of 1897, and during the following summer was published as a serial in a Chicago publication. In November of the same year it first appeared in book form.

Mr. Sheldon's church is a settlement of negroes, known in Topeka as "Tennessee town," in which misery and want were on every hand. To this settlement Mr. Sheldon turned his attention as a field for doing good. He quickly interested some of his congregation in the work which he had in mind and from a small beginning of a few years ago several creditable institutions have grown up in Tennessee town. Among these are a kindergarten and a free reading room.

Mr. Sheldon receives hundreds of letters asking questions regarding "In His Steps." Many people suppose that the church depicted in the story is an idealized picture of Mr. Sheldon's church. No one is more quick to correct this impression than Mr. Sheldon himself. It is impossible for him to answer personally all the letters he receives, so he has prepared a printed reply which he sends in reply to many of these, in which he says:

"I want you to issue a paper edition of this story so that the price will not stand in the way of people buying it," was the instruction which Mr. Sheldon gave to the publisher. The publisher demurred. It would make the book appear "cheap," he said, and his house could not afford to get a reputation for publishing "cheap" books. Mr. Sheldon insisted and the paper bound edition was published. In just one year it was selling at the rate of 1,100 copies a day.

In court. Again he spent hours riding on street cars, talking with motemen and conductors. Among those who attended his church were many students of Washburn college, a Congregational school in the neighborhood of his church. He thought that he was not doing them the good that he wished. He thought over his own college days and remembered how distant some of the ministers were. He determined that some of those who attended his church should have that feeling and he became one of the students. He registered as a student at the beginning of the college year and entered the classes with the rest. He studied Greek and Latin with them and took part in all their sports. The result was that he won their complete confidence.

First Scrofula Kindergarten. A short distance from Mr. Sheldon's church is a settlement of negroes, known in Topeka as "Tennessee town," in which misery and want were on every hand. To this settlement Mr. Sheldon turned his attention as a field for doing good. He quickly interested some of his congregation in the work which he had in mind and from a small beginning of a few years ago several creditable institutions have grown up in Tennessee town. Among these are a kindergarten and a free reading room.

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Mr. Sheldon is still a comparatively young man. He is a native of Wellsville, N. Y., where he was born in 1857. A large part of his early life was spent on a Dakota farm and he has much of the spirit and dash of the west. His father, who is also a minister, farmed during the week days and did missionary work on Sundays. He attended school at Yankton and when about 15 years of age he went to the city of Yankton, where he worked for a number of years. He then went to the city of Yankton, where he worked for a number of years. He then went to the city of Yankton, where he worked for a number of years.

IN THE WHEELING WORLD

The Omaha Wheel club card run for June is as follows: June 4-5, 2 m., scotch, fifteen miles; 2:15 p. m., club run, Fort Crook and Bellevue, twelve miles. June 11-12, 9 a. m., scotch, fifteen miles, eight miles, plenty of refreshments, hand concert, athletic sports and pastimes. June 18-19, 9 a. m., scotch, fifteen miles; 2:15 p. m., club run, Calhoun, eighteen miles. June 25-26, 9 a. m., Glenwood; dinner at Glenwood; return afternoon; twenty-five miles.

No member should miss the club meeting. In the past many important questions are going to be settled. A new club house is now an assured fact and the specifications for the building will be drawn up at that night. All cyclists are cordially invited to attend the club's picnic at Sully Mills, June 11. The club has made all necessary preparations for entertaining a large crowd and can guarantee a good time to all coming. Music, refreshments, boating, races and all kinds of athletic sports and pastimes will be given away the time. Admission to the grounds is free.

The racing board of the League of American Wheelmen has decided to offer a special prize to be competed for at the national meeting in Boston. This will be in addition to the regular prizes. An effort will be made to decide upon the best all-around rider, and with this object in view there will be three races, one at a mile, one a five-mile pursuit race and another a fifteen-mile paced race, the winner of two of three races to be known as the all-round champion. The racing board of the League of American Wheelmen has decided to offer a special prize to be competed for at the national meeting in Boston.

What some cyclists may consider an important problem has been effectually solved by their fellow wheelmen in Paris, says the New York Times. During the past winter the number of bicycles pledged at that benefit institution of Paris, the state pawn shop, better known as the Mont-de-Piété, has far exceeded the number pledged in former years. Sociologists were at a loss to account for the reason. Then the warm days of spring came and with them the unraveling of the mystery. The bicycles were nearly all taken out. They had simply been stored; that is all.

IN THE WHEELING WORLD

as on the road, Murphy has covered a mile less than a minute, and those who know him are sanguine of his success in the effort to accomplish the much-discussed feat behind an engine. The scene of the performance will be a two-mile stretch of road near Babylon, Long Island, that is straight and level. A smooth flooring of boards will be laid between the rails for two miles. Half a mile will be allowed in which to get headway and half a mile in which to slow and stop. An engine and one car will be used. Timers and other officials will be on the rear platform of the car, while other judges will be at the starting and finishing marks. At the rear of the car will be built a wind shield of large dimensions, something like a copper in shape, so that the whirling air cannot beat upon the rider from above, below or at the sides, but will have to rush in behind and blow upon his back. The ride will be made during the state meet at Patchogue, on June 29 or 30 or July 1.

People troubled with the wheel habit have been assured at various times that a continuance of the practice would bring about one or more of the afflictions charged up to the bicycle. We have been promised epidemics of the bicycle head, the bicycle face, the bicycle pubertack, the bicycle calf, and other distortions of the human form. But the promised epidemics did not spread beyond the craniums of the authors, whose playing friends restrained them in time to escape asylums for the feeble-minded. The disease appears to have spread beyond the Atlantic and has broken out in a new form in the London Globe, which says: "The cyclist's cough" is the latest ailment to which wheelmen are said to be specially liable. For some years, we are told, doctors have noticed that coughs are more prevalent in summer than in winter. No doubt the exceptionally mild winters which we have enjoyed since 1894-95 reduced the recent average of lung complaints; but that dry summer weather should multiply them seemed inexplicable until it occurred to a doctor that the majority of his patients were enthusiastic cyclists. Since, moreover, the characteristic of road traffic in dry weather is dustiness, it was easy to arrive at the conclusion that the coughs were mainly due to irritation of the lungs, caused by the inhalation of dust.

Many wheel riders complain of sweating feet and to such some information from the British Medical Journal will be invaluable. A physician, in that publication, advocates the use of formalin for the trouble. The soles of the feet should be painted with formalin three times a day; between the toes only once and not at the dorsum of the foot. It is also useful to pour four or five drops of formalin on the shoe and warm it, as this serves to disguise the odor of sweat, and it is also a good preserver of leather. The results from a single application of formalin last of the four weeks, when a repetition of the treatment becomes necessary. It has been used for soldiers and has stopped foot sweating and no harm has been observed. The formalin acts as a deodorant and is non-toxic. The skin, after being painted, becomes dry as leather. If preferred a 2 or 3 per cent solution can be used instead of the pure formalin and applied more frequently.

It is certainly gratifying to the public to know of one concern in the land which is not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds have given away over ten million trials of their great medicine and have the satisfaction of knowing it will be used by cured thousands of hopeless cases. Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness and all diseases of the Throat, Chest and Lungs are surely cured by it. Call on Kuhn & Co., druggists, and get a free trial bottle. Regular size 50c and \$1. Every bottle guaranteed or price refunded.

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