HIS STEPS. "What Would Jesus Do?" By CHARLES M. SHELDON. Copyrighted and published in book form by the Advance Publishing Co. of Chicago.]



The Saturday matinee at the Audithe usual crowd was struggling to get to its carriage before any one else. The Auditorium attendant was shouting out

he number of different carriages, and he carriage doors were slamming as the horses were driven rapidly to the urb, held there impatient by the irivers, who had shivered long in the aw east wind, and then let go to lunge for a few minutes into the river vehicles that tossed under the eleated railway and finally went whirling off up the avenue.

"Now, then, 624!" shouted the Aulitorium attendant. "Six hundred and wenty-four!" he repeated as there ashed up to the curb a splendid span of black horses attached to a carriage naving the monogram "C. R. S."

gilt letters on the panel of the door. Two girls stepped out of the crowd toward the carriage. The older one had ntered and taken her seat, and the atendant was still holding the door open or the younger, who stood hesitating on the curb.

"Come. Felicia! What are you waitng for ? I shall freeze to death !" called the voice from the carriage.

The girl outside of the carriage hastly unpinned a bunch of English violets rom her dress and handed them to a small boy who was standing shivering on the edge of the sidewalk, almost ander the horses' feet. He took them with a look of astonishment and a 'Thank ye, lady !'' and instantly buried a very grimy face in the bunch of perfume. The girl stepped into the carriage, the door shut with the incisive bang peculiar to well made carriages of this sort, and in a few moments the coachman was speeding the horses rapidly up one of the boulevards."

"You are always doing some queer thing or other, Felicia." said the older girl as the carriage whirled on past the great residences already brilliantly lighted.

"Am I? What have I done that is queer now. Rose !" asked the other, looking up suddenly and turning her head toward her sister.

"Oh, giving those violets to that boy! He looked as if he needed a good hot supper more than a bunch of violeta. It's a wonder you didn't invite him home with us. I shouldn't have been surprised if you had. You are always

doing such queer things, Felicia." "Would it be queer to invite a boy like that to come to the house and get a hot supper ?" Felicia asked the question softly and almost as if she were alone.

"Queer isn't just the word, of

about the queer doings in Raymond you have upset the whole family People can't live at that concert pitch all the time You see if Rachel doesn't give it up soon It's a great pity she doesn't come to Chicago and sing in the Auditorium concerts I heard today she had received an offer I'm going to write and urge her to come I'm just dying to hear her sing."

Felicia looked out of the window and was silent The carriage rolled on past two blocks of magnificent private residences and turned into a wide driveway under a covered passage, and the sisters hurried into the house. It was an elegant mansion of graystone, furnished like a palace. every corner of it perium in Chicago was just over, and warm with the luxury of paintings. sculpture. art and refinement.

The owner of it all. Mr Charles R.

Sterling, stood before an open grate fire smoking a cigar. He had made his money in grain speculation and railroad ventures and was reputed to be worth something over two millions. His wife was a sister of Mrs. Winslow of Raymond. She had been an invalid for several years. The two girls, Rose and Felicia, were the only children. Rose was 21 years old. fair, vivacious, Felicia was 19, with a tropical beauty somewhat like her cousin. Rachel Winslow, with warm. generous impulses just waking into Christian feeling, capable of all sorts of expression, a puzzle to her father, a source of irritation to her mother and with a great, unsurveyed territory of thought and action

in herself of, which she was more than Felicia that would easily endure any condition in life if only the liberty to act fully on her conscientious convictions were granted her

"Here's a letter for you. Felicia." said Mr. Sterling, taking it out of his pocket

the letter, saying as she did so, "It's from Rachel.

'Well, what's the latest news from at Felicia, as he often did, with half shut eyes. as if he were studying her. "Rachel says Dr. Bruce has been

and has seemed very much interested church.' "What does Rachel say about her-

self?" asked Rose, who was lying on a couch almost buried under half a dozen elegant cushions. "She is still singing at the Rectangle.

Since the tent meetings closed she sings in an old hall until the new buildings her friend Virginia Page is putting up are completed.

"I must write Rachel to come to Chicago and visit us. She ought not to throw away her voice in that railroad town upon all those people who don't appreciate her.'

Mr. Sterling lighted a new cigar, and Rose exclaimed:

"Rachel is awfully queer, I think. She might set Chicago wild with her voice if she sang in the Auditorium, course," replied Rose indifferently. "It and there she goes on, throwing her on of her great crisis. would be what Mme. Blanc calls outre -decidedly. Therefore you will please what they are hearing."



"Overwork and loss of necessary sleep made me very nervous and it was with the greatest difficulty that I Rose was 21 years old, fair, vivacious, could execute my solos. A friend for the world or a miserable enigma to educated in a fashionable college, just advised me to give Dr. Miles' Nervine herself and all who knew her entering society and already somewhat a trial, which I did and received imcynical and indifferent, a very hard mediate benefit. In a few days I was young lady to please, her father said entirely relieved. I recommend it to sometimes playfully, sometimes sternly. all musicians who suffer from overworked and disordered nerves."

> Olto H. Shemmer, 2316 State St., Milwaukee, Wis. Dr. Miles' Nervine

sold by all druggists on guarantee, first bottle benefits or money back. Book on heart and nerves sent free. dimly conscious. There was that in Dr. Miles Medical Company, Elkhart, Ind.

> see shadows enough without going to the play."

"That's a doleful remark for a girl 19 years old to make," replied Rose, 'but then you're queer in your ideas Felicia sat down and instantly opened anyhow, Felicia. If you're going up to see mother, tell her I'll run in after the

play if she is still awake." Felicia went up to see her mother Raymond !" asked Mr. Sterling, taking and remain with her until the Delano his cigar out of his mouth and looking carriage came. Mrs. Sterling was worried about her husband. She talked incessantly and was irritated by every remark Felicia made. She would not liststudying in Raymond for two Sundays en to Felicia's attempts to read even a part of Rachel's letter, and when Fein Mr. Maxwell's pledge in the First licia offered to stay with her for the evening she refused the offer with a

good deal of positive sharpness. So Felicia started off to the play not very happy, but she was familiar with that feeling, only sometimes she was more unhappy than at other times. Her feeling expressed itself tonight by a withdrawal into herself. When the company was seated in the box and the curtain was up, Felicia was back of the others and remained for the evening by herself. Mrs. Delano as chaperon for a half dozen young ladies understood Felicia well enough to know that she was "queer," as Rose so often said, and she made no attempt to draw her out of the corner, and so Felicia really experienced that night by herself one of the feelings that added to the mo-

mentum that was increasing the coming

mournfully hideons in her rags and re-

pulsive poverty. These two, the gentle-

The contrast was starting it was brought about by a clever piece of staging that allowed only a few minutes to elapse between the slum and the palace scenes. The dialogue continued, the actors came and went in their various roles, but upon Felicia the play made but one distinct impression In reality the scenes on the bridge and in the slum were only incidents in the story of the play, but Felicia found herself living those scenes over and over She had never philosophized about the causes of human misery She was not old enough She had not the temperament that philosophizes But she felt intensely, and this was not the first time she had felt the contrast thrust into her feeling between the upper and the lower conditions of human life. It had been growing upon her until it had made her what Rose called "queer" and the other people in her circle of wealthy acquaintances called "very unusual." It was simply the human problem in its extremes of riches and poverty, its refinement and its vileness, which was, in spite of her unconscious attempts to struggle against the facts, burning into her life the impression that would in the end transform her into either a

woman of rare love and self sacrifice "Come, Felicial Aren't you going home?" said Rose. The play was over. the curtain down, and people were go ing noisily out, langhing and gossiping as if "The Shadows of London" was simply good diversion. as it was put on the stage so effectively

Felicia rose and went out with the rest quietly and with the absorbed feeling that had actually left her in her seat oblivious of the play's ending. She was never absentminded, but often thought herself into a condition that left her alone in the midst of a crowd. "Well, what did you think of it?"

asked Rose when the sisters had reached home and were in the drawing room. Rose really had considerable respect for Felicia's judgment of a play

"I thought it was a pretty picture of real life."

"I mean the acting," said Rose, annored

"The bridge scene was well acted, especially the woman's part I thought the man overdid the sentiment a little." "Did you' I enjoyed that. And

wasn't the scene between the two cousins funny when they first learned that ES 2 they were related ? But the slum scene 33 was horrible I think they ought not to show such things in a play They are too painful "

"They must be painful in real life, too," replied Felicia.

"Yes, but we don't have to look at the real thing. It's bad enough at the theater. where we pay for it '

Rose went into the drawing room and began to eat from a plate of fruit

and cakes on the sideboard. "Are you going up to see mother?" asked Felicia after awhile. She had remained in front of the drawing room fire.

"No," replied Rose from the other room; "I won't trouble her tonight. If you go in, tell her I am too tired to be agreeable."

So Felicia turned into her mother's room. As she went up the great staircase and down the upper hall the light was burning there, and the servant who always waited on Mrs. Sterling was ing Felicia to come

he proceeded with the service as usual He was calm, and his voice was steady and firm His prayer was the first intimation the people had of anything new or strange in the service. It is safe to say that the Nazareth Avenue church had not heard Dr. Bruce offer such a prayer during the 12 years he had been pastor there. How would a minister be likely to pray who had come out of a revolution in Christian feeling that had completely changed his definition of what was meant by following Jesus? No one in Nazareth Avenue church had any idea that the Rev. Calvin Bruce, D. D., the dignified, cultured, refined doctor of divinity, had within a few days been crying like a little child, on his knees, asking for strength and courage and Christlikeness to speak his Sunday message, and yet the prayer was an unconscions, involuntary disclosure of the soul's experience such as Nazareth Avenue people seldom heard and never before from that pulpit.

In the hush that succeeded the prayer a distinct wave of spiritual power moved over the congregation The most carcless persons in the church felt it Felicia, whose sensitive religious nature responded swiftly to every touch of emotion, quivered under the passing of that supernatural power, and when she lifted her head and looked up at the minister there was a look in her eyes that announced her intense, eager anticipation of the scene that was to fol-

And she was not alone in her attitude There was something in the prayer and the result of it that stirred many and many a disciple in Nazareth Avenue church. All over the house men and women leaned forward, and when Dr. Bruce began to speak of his visit to Raymond in the opening sentences of his address, which this morning preceded his sermon there was an answering response in the church that came back to him as he spoke and thrilled him with the hope of a spiritual baptism such as he had never during all his ministry experienced.

TO BE CONTINUED.



## I can't take plain cod-liver cil. Doctor says, try it. He o might as well tell me to melt e lard or butter and try to take them. It is too rich and will upset the stomach. But you can take milk or cream,

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not invite him or others like him to hot suppers because I suggested it. Oh. dear! I'm awfully tired."

She yawned, and Felicia silently looked out of the window in the door.

"The concert was stupid, and the violinist was simply a bore. I don't see how you could ait so still through it all," Rose exclaimed, a little impatiently.

"I liked the music," answered Felicia quietly.

"You like anything. I never saw girl with so little critical taste."

Felicia colored alightly, but would not answer. Rose yawned again and then hummed a fragment of a popular song. Then she exclaimed abruptly:

"I'm sick of almost everything. I hope the 'Shadows of London' will be exciting tonight."

" "The Shadows of Chicago!" " murmured Felicia.

" 'The Shadows of Chicago!' 'The Shadows of London, ' the play, the great drama with its wonderful scenery, the sensation of New York for two months. You know we have a box with the Delance tonight."

Felicia turned her face toward her sister. Her great brown eyes were very expressive and not altogether free from a sparkle of luminous heat.

'And yet we never weep over the real thing on the actual stage of life. What are the shadows of London on the stage to the shadows of London or Chicago as they really exist? Why don't we get excited over the facts as they are?

"Because the actual people are dirty and disagreeable and it's too much bother, I suppose," replied Rose carelessly. "Felicia, you never can reform the world. What's the use! We're not to blame for the poverty and misery. There have always been rich and poor, and there always will be. We ought to be thankful we're rich."

"Suppose Christ had gone on that principle," replied Felicia, with unusual persistence. "Do you remember Dr. Bruce's sermon on that verse a few Sundays ago, 'For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich ? "

"I remember it well enough," said Rose, with some petulance. "And didn't Dr. Bruce go on to say that there was no blame attached to people who had wealth if they are kind and give to the needs of the poor ? And I am sure the doctor himself is pretty comfortably settled. He never gives up his lummies just bödanse some people in the city go hungry. What good would it do if he did? I tell you, Felicia, there will al-

"Rachel won't come here unless she scenery and unexpected climaxes. There

can do it and keep her pledge at the same time," said Felicia after a pause. "What pledge ?" Mr. Sterling asked the question and then added hastily: "Oh, I know! Yes; a very peculiar thing that. Powers used to be a friend through the dim light, imposing, its of mine. We learned telegraphy in the

when he resigned and handed over that child came upon the bridge and stood evidence to the interstate commerce there for a moment, peering about as commission, and he's back at his telegraphy again. There have been queer doings in Raymond during the past year. I wonder what Dr. Bruce thinks

of it, on the whole. I must have a talk with him about it." "He preaches tomorrow," said Feli-

tentions. Just as she was stealthily cia. "Perhaps he will tell us something mounting the parapet to throw herself into the river the child caught sight of about it."

There was silence for a minute. Then her, ran forward, with a shrill cry more Felicia said abruptly, as if she had animal than human, and, seizing the gone on with a spoken thought to some woman's dress, dragged back upon it invisible hearer, "And what if he with all her little strength. Then there should propose the same pledge to the came suddenly upon the scene two other characters who had already figured in Nazareth Avenue church !

"Who? What are you talking about ?" the play, a tall, handsome, athletic genasked her father, a little sharply. "About Dr. Bruca I say what if he tleman dressed in the fashion, attended by a slim figured lad, who was as re-

should propose to our church what Mr. fined in dress and appearance as the lit-Maxwell proposed to his and ask for the girl clinging to her mother was volunteers who would pledge themselves to do everything after asking the question. 'What would Jesus do?'

man and the lad, prevented the at-"There's no danger of it," said Rose, tempted suicide, and after a tableau on rising suddenly from the couch as the the bridge where the audience learned that the man and woman were brother tea bell rang.

"It's a very impracticable movement and sister the scene was transferred to to my mind," said Mr. Sterling sharply. the interior of one of the slum tene-"I understand from Rachel's letter ments in the east side of London. Here

that the church in Raymond is going the scene painter and carpenter had to make an attempt to extend the idea done their utmost to produce an exact of the pledge to the other churches. If copy of a famous court and alley well they succeed, they will certainly make known to the poor creatures who make great changes in the churches and in up a part of the outcast London humanity. The rags, the crowding, the people's lives," said Felicia. vileness, the broken furniture, the hor-

'Oh, well, lct's have some tea first," said Rose, walking into the dining rible animal existence forced upon room. Her father and Felicia followed, creatures made in God's image, were so

and the meal proceeded in silence. Mrs. skillfully shown in this scene that more Sterling had her meals served in her than one elegant woman in the theater. seated, like Rose Sterling, in a sumproom. Mr. Sterling was preoccupied. He ate very little and excused himself tuous box, surrounded with silk hangearly, and, although it was Saturday ings and velvet covered railing, caught night, he remarked as he went out that herself shrinking back a little, as if he would be down town late on some contamination were possible from the nearness of this piece of painted canvas. special business.

"Don't you think father looks very It was almost too realistic, and yet it much disturbed lately?" saked Felicia had a horrible fascination for Felicia a little while after he had gone out

as she sat there alone, buried back in a "Oh. I don't know! I hadn't noticed cushioned seat absorbed in thoughts that went far beyond the dialogue on the anything unusual," replied Ross. After

a silence she said: "Are you going to the play tonight, Felicia? Mrs. Delano will be here at half past 7. I think you shifted to the interior of a nobleman's ought to go. She will feel hurt if you palace, and almost a sigh of relief went refuse." up all over the house at the sight of the

"I'll go. I don't care about it. I can accustomed luxury of the upper classes

"Tell Clara to go out," exclaimed Mrs. Sterling as Felicia came up to the

was one scene in the third act that imbed and kneeled by it. pressed even Rose Sterling Felicia was surprised, but she did as

It was midnight on Blackfriars her mother bade her and then inquired bridge. The Thames flowed dark and how she was feeling. forbidding below. St. Paul's rose "Felicia," said her mother, "can you pray?" dome seeming to float above the build The question was so unlike any her same office; made a great sensation ings surrounding it. The figure of a mother had ever asked before that Felicia was startled, but she answered: "Why, yes, mother. What makes if looking for some one. Several persons you ask such a question ?" were crossing the bridge, but in one of

"Felicia, I am frightened. Your fathe recesses about midway of the river ther-I have had such strange fears a woman stood, leaning out over the about him all day. Something is wrong parapet with a strained agony of face with him. I want you to pray." and figure that told plainly of her in-

"Now? Here, mother ?' "Yes. Pray, Felicia."

Felicia reached out her hand and took her mother's. It was trembling. Mrs. Sterling had never shown much tenderness for her younger daughter, and her strange demand now was the first real sign of any confidence in Felicia's character.

The girl still kneeled, holding her mother's trembling hand, and prayed. It was doubtful if she had ever prayed aloud before. She must have said in her prayer the words that her mother needed, for when it was silent in the room the invalid was weeping softly. and her nervous tension was over.

Felicia staid some time. When she was assured that her mother would not need her any longer, she rose to go.

"Good night, mother. You must let Clara call me if you feel bad in the night."

"I feel better now." Then as Felicia was moving away Mrs. Sterling said, Won't you kiss me, Felicia ?"

Felicia went back and bent over her mother. The kiss was almost as strange to her as the prayer had been. When Felicia went out of the room, her cheeks were wet with tears. She had not cried since she was a little girl.

Sunday morning at the Sterling mansion was generally very quiet. The girls usually went to church at 11 o'clock service. Mr. Sterling was not a member, but a heavy contributor, and he generally went to church in the morning. This time he did not come down to breakfast and finally sent word by a servant that he did not feel well enough to go out. So Rose and Felicia drove up to the door of the Nazareth Avenue church and entered the family pew alone.

When Dr. Bruce walked out of the roam at the rear of the platform and went up to the pulpit to open the Bible, as his custom was, those who knew him best did not detect anything unusual in his manner or his expression.



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