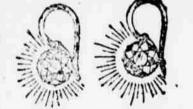






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MALCOM KIRK.

BY CHARLES M. SHELDON, Author of "In His Steps," "Crucifizion of Philip Strong," "Robert Hardy's Seven Days."

A Tale of Moral Heroism In Overcoming the World.

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Tlustrations by Herman Heyer.

----CHAPTER XIL

THE BATTLE FOR PROBIBITION. All the way back to Conrad his mind was at war. He knew deep down in his soul that he had no joy in the change he had planned to make. He knew well enough that his call to the ministry did not mean a ministry with the pen, but with the voice and in the personal, living, hand to hand touch with humanity.

He knew it when he said to Dorothy there by the ruins, "I will." He knew it as he penned the letter that even now be supposed had started on its eastward journey. He knew it as he felt the touch of the sorrowful mother's hand on his arm. And no reasoning or self persuasion could convince him otherwise or satisfy him that he had made a decision that his conscience could approve.

The doctor had a patient at the lower end of the town near where they drove in on the way back, and Malcom left him there and started to walk home. As he went up the main street past the saloons Carver came staggering out of one of them.

The sight of the minister seemed to sober the man a little. He muttered, "How do, Mr. Kirk?" and was shambling on, when he suddenly stopped, as if he had remembered something, and ran back to Kirk, who had gone sadly on, sick at heart at the sight of him.

"Something of yours, Mr. Kirk, Letter you gave me to keep. No trouble to keep it. Glad to do favor," Carver stammered, his drunken brain proud of his apparent service to the minister. He pulled out the letter Kirk had given him and handed it over. Malcom took it mechanically without a word. Carver stared at him, and as Kirk walked away he scratched his

head and muttered: "Something wrong with the minister plexity and finally zigzagged into a saloon to see if he could clear up the mystery with a fresh drink.

Malcom thrust the letter down into his pocket and walked on like one in a dream. He went by the postoflice without looking up. He met several of his parishioners and answered their good day absently. He was going over the struggle he had experienced when his baby died, only this was a new form of it. Now Dorothy was the person he was thinking of most. He was in the babit of making up his own mind quickly. If he ever did anything that his whole soul could not rejoice in, he felt suspicious of it; he felt suspicious of his whole motive now in leaving Conrad. And Phillp Barton, was that soul laid on him to rescue? Was it of that particular individual and count tions. him one of the lost souls he had really pledged himself to save? And this detter that had come back to him, was he to take the event as a leading of the Spirit and interpret it all to mean that he was not to send it, after all? But Dorothy, how could he ask her to lead the life of hardship she must lead if they remained in this Home Missionary field? After he had gone over all the ground for going or leaving he came back to that final question. And his mind was in a tumult. He was within a block of the house now and still walking on absorbed, his congregation. could do toward helping on the new church parsonage, and we have concluded to give this as our share." The sorry it isn't ten times as much. Our sickness and Jim's death last spring. ! But we want to do something in memoman choked up and did not finish the sentence.



time now, but I called to tell you that I was out at the Parker district last night, and the men out there want you to come over tomorrow or next night if you can. They've never heard you. I'm sure you could do some real good work there. It's needed had enough. The neighborhood is made up of young ranchmen who nearly all drink. If you can go, I can send word by one of the

"Tell bim I'll go tomorrow," said Malconi in a low voice

"All right. Oh, by the way, Mr. Kirk"-the superintendent had started on, but he furned around and came mer was out in front of his saloon. and he said to one of his customers: "I Kirk. He has a way of getting his church members to believe as he does, and if they begin to vote that way'- I will never give up this fight, will we. Mr. Kirk?"

"No; we will never give it up," replied Malcom, with the same feeling at heart that he had when he said to Mrs. Barton, "No; I will never give him [Philip] up."

He walked slowly, and Dorothy knew the moment he entered the room that something unusual had happened. true that he must assume the salvation Malcom could never conceal his emotor in her hand. Malcom took it from her.

"If we are not going to mail this, what do you think we ought to do with it?" he asked, looking at the stove significantly.

"Save the stamp, Malcom," said Dorothy. "You may need it if we are not going to live in Boston." He tore off the corner of the envelope

where the stamp was and opened the stove door and threw the letter into the fire.

"So that settles it," said Malcom gravely. There was a pause in the little room. "I feel better." he added, looking steadily at his wife.

"Do you?" said Dorothy gently. She kissed him, and they both seemed to remember their promise made in the little church. Dorothy knew well enough that for a man like Malcom to do anything that in the smallest degree contradicted his convictions meant for him continual torture of mind. The minute she saw that his action in leaving Conrad meant that sort of moral conflict she knew there was only one course open to them, and that was to stay in Conrad and battle out the life that duty called them to live there. In all this nothing but the great and

trustful love tiny felt for each other made possible such a complete and unquestioning change of plans that affected their whole future. Malcom would not have been the man he was if he had not tolt constrained to stay In Conrad. I setterly would not have been the woman she was if, once seeing that her bushand's moral strength depended on this decision, she had attempted to argue him out of it or had failed to accept the situation cheerfully and once for all. So, then, these two children of the

All Father, having settled thus simply but decidedly this question, faced the life before them bravely and silently, and no one in Conrad knew until years afterward how near they had come to losing two of the greatest souls that ever came into the place. Malcom nev er told his church people. He simply pleked up the thread of his affection for them where he had seemed for awhile to drop it and went on to love men who are driving out there this aft. them more and more, and they, in turn, never drenning of the moral conflict he had been having, grew to love him because they were enduring

hardship together. At the first church meeting held aft er that eventful night and day in Mal back a step-"it may encourage you a com's and Dorothy's lives Malcom boldevidently." He shook his head in per- little to hear what I overheard in front by earlied on his members to rally of Valmer's place the other day! Val- around the building of a new church. He read the two letters, the one from the superintendent and the other from don't care for all the other prohibition the church building society. The memcranks in Conrad except that preacher bers listened in silence. Malcom looked into their faces quietly. They were gathered in the little storeroom in the main street. Next door was a saloon. didn't hear any more, but that bit of a and that Sunday, as on many others speech ought to be encouraging. We the congregation could hear the chink ing of glasses and the drunken laugh ter of the men at the bar.

"We might as well accept the facts." said Malcom, and as he talked it is certain that the Holy Spirit was pres out in that little room in wonderful power, as he always is after a tempta tion and an overcoming. "We shall have to build this church without out side help. You know what my views are about raising money by means of fairs and suppers. I think the Lord will show us a better way. We are that this day's work in our state has all poor together. I do not need to killed the power of this enemy that has say that I am willing to share this killed this boy and broken this mothstruggle with you. We are not only er's life!" going to build a house of wood in which to worship, but a church of Jesus which has for its habitation the throne of a human soul. This saloon"-Malcom paysed, and in the silence ev ery one could hear through the thin wall the noise in the other room-"this saloon represents a destructive force that we as a church must, by God's grace, overcome. How much do we value the church? Are we ready to sacrifice, to go without some necessi ties even, to build up the kingdom and destroy the works of the devil? If we A. R. Pottieger, VETERINARY SURGEON. All professional business entrusted to my car will receive prompt and careful attention "I propose three cheers!" JAS. G. CROUSE, are, we can overcome. We can balld out church and grow into a power. Let us believe in the power of the Spirit and go on in his might." All business entrusted to bis care During the weeks and months the will receive prompt attention: followed Malcom had great encourage ment in his plans for building. He "If there is one who believes boldly went to several of the business the "Gold Standard" is a good men in Conrad-men who were not church members-and asked them to thing, or that it must be mainhelp. They did so and in many cases tained, I warn him not to cast came to him before he went to them his vote for me, because I promand volunteered assistance. The spirit ise him it will not be maintainof prayer pervaded the entire church. ed in this country any longer Before spring almost enough money than I am able to get rid of it." had been raised to build a larger struc-

great tide of feeling in Conran. poruthy never forgot the evening Malcom came in and with a glow in his face that transformed it exclaimed: "A telegram just received says the

legislature today by the necessary twothirds vote passed the resolution to submit a prohibitory amendment to the constitution! I never cheered for the legislature before, but I propose three cheers, three times three, right away!" Out on the main street that night the temperance people built an immense bonfire. The band came out and played, and there were speeches and temperance songs. One of the best speeches was by Malcom Kirk. He called attention during it to the fact that the battle had only just begun; that there were nearly two years yet before the people would be called on to vote on the amendment. All the time he was speaking he was conscious that outside the enthusiastic circle of temperance and Christian people was the whisky element, sullen, angry, surprised at the action of the legislature, venomous, just beginning to stir itself for the two years' struggle. It seemed to Malcom medicine can that he could even that night prophesy in some degree the satanic character of the conflict that made Conrad one of the fiercest centers of the fight.

But he was right in saying that the battle had only just begun by the noof the legislature. The weeks and months that followed witnessed some wonderful scenes in Courad Now the women of Conrad began to show they power, as they had airea ly been a con stant influence for years.

Dorothy suddenly assumed a place she once would never have dared t take. The women in all the other churches, recognizing her ability, camto her and insisted that she take the presidency of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, that had been organized a short time before. She did so at first with fear and trembling. then with a brave, joyous confidence that amazed her and her husband, but the Lord was leading her.

The time passed, and the election day drew near. Night after night be fore that eventful day when the people of the state were to vote on the ques tion of saloon or no saloon in their commonwealth the woman's union held street prayer meetings in front of the saleons. Dorothy worked and prayed

incessantly. Her great beauty, spiritualized by her suffering, had wonderful influence. Many a young ranchman went away from those prayer meetings vowing to vote for the amendment. The saloon men would come to the doors of their places and eye the groups of kneeling mothers and wives in sullen amazement. They had cause to fear for their unholy traffic when the women of the state were thus on their knees, calling on God and heaven to help the cause of "home and native land."

The afternoon of that election day Malcom was suddenly called out to "The Forks" to see Philip Barton. He had been stendily failing during these two years, and Mrs. Barton sent for Kirk in haste, and he went, supposing is might be for the last time. It was after dark before he came

back to Conrad. Philip Barton had died that afternoon, unconscious at last of the prayer that Malcom had offered by the side of his heartbroken mother.

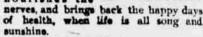
"God of mercy," cried Malcom as he stered the street that night, "gran



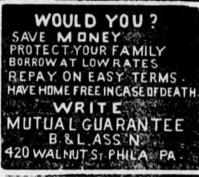
And she does not understand why. Her work used to seem so easy. You could tell her whereabouts as she worked by the snatches of song which now and again overflowed her happy lips. And now she can hardly keep up. Her head pains, her back hurts, and she feels

entirely worn out. What is the matter? The proba-bility is that the stomach is disordared, the liver is not performing the whole daty. Tolsons are accuse-lating in the blood, and unless these are removed, and the stomach and organs of digestion and nutri-tion cured and strengthened, there is liable to

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Sumshine. "I suffered ten menths from a complicated case of liver complaint, constipation, indiges-tion, suppression of mosthly function, and Eid-ney disease, too," writes Miss Luis M. Brittle, of Ivor, Va. "I also suffered excruciating pain in my back and head. I am glad to say that six bottles of 'Goldes Medical Discovery, three vials of Dr. Pierce's Plensant Fellets, and two bottles of 'Compound Extract of Swart-Weed' cured me emberly. I gladly recommend Ds Pierce's medicines to all sufferers."



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"That was a good sermon you gave us, Mr. Kirk, last Sunday. It did us a world of good. We're praying for you at our house. God bless your work among us."

The man was gone, and Malcom stood there holding the money, and it was impossible for him to prevent his mind from trying to guess by what self denial, hardship, sacrifice, that \$10 had been saved. It was a little thing, but the meeting with his poor parishloner profoundly moved him.

He went on slowly and had almost reached the house when, as he turned corner, he came face to face with the superintendent of his Sunday school The superintendent was one of , leading temperance workers in Confid. He had been specially active is the wook carried on in the country distriets. He was one of Maloom's best Intends, one of the comparatively for nes with whom be often counseled and one whom he trusted entirely.

"T've just been to the house, Mr. Kirk, to see you. I won't take your

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NHUBALGIA cured by Dr. Milest Pan

He took out the letter that Carver had given back to him and held it out to Dorothy.

"It has not been mailed. I doubt if it ever ought to be," he said simply. but his face was pale, and his lip quivered under his intense excitement, for he was stirred deeply by the events of the day.

"What does it mean?" Dorothy asked as she took the letter, looking at Malcom and letting the letter fall from her hand upon the table near which she had been sitting.

"It means-I think-yes, I am sure when some one touched his arm. He , it means that I must stay here. Neilooked up and saw one of his church ther my heart nor my mind has any members, one of the poorest men in real joy in the thought of leaving my work here. Dorothy, I cannot leave "How do you do, Mr. Kirk? Wife without seeming to myself, to my and I have been talking over what we church, to the citizens, to all my friends here, to be guilty of running away from my duty because of hardship. I cannot persuade myself that man handed to Kirk a \$10 bill. "We're ' the Lord wants me to preach with my pen. I know as well as if he spoke to crops failed, you know, along with the i me with an audible voice that he wants me to speak to living men in close contact with them, to bear their ry of the boy. His mother"- The | burdens near by, to be one of the multitude in the struggle for a better world. Especially I do not dare to silence the conviction within me that 1 ought to stay by the temperance fight in Kansas just now. The Lord has seen fit to use me to his glory in this great crisis for the cause of home and native land. Dorothy, if I were only rich! If I only had the means to give you what you ought to have?"

The last two sentences were suddenly wrung from him as he sat there watching Dorothy, who had listened in silence, her hands clasped in her lap and her face. Malcom fancied, cold and hard.

For the first and last time in his life he was deceived in Dorothy.

She auddenly lifted her head and smilled, while der syes filed with tears. "De you think, do you thisk, Malcom, that I could ever the proud of you again, over feel satisfied if you acted a part tint was not true to your convictions? Do you think I married you for FOR BORNY T

" always know you never married me for my good looka" replied Malcom, with a smile that revealed inward joy, "and you certainly did not marry me for my money, for I told you at the time that I hadn't any. But, oh, Dorothy, you know how I long to do and be everything to you, don't you?"

"Yes, I know it. very well," Dorothy answered. She had come over to her husband and the anxious look on his face had given way to one of relief. She had the lotter to the Boston edi-

ture than the one that had been burned. Before that time, however, the temperance agitation had grown into a

- intermented

The election was over, but no one could predict the result. As Malcom came up the street it was crowded with men and women. The Christian Temperance union had been at work all day. It had served a free lunch to all the voters and now was holding a prayer meeting in front of Valmer's place. The crowd filled the wide street and overflowed the broad sidewalks. Free

whisky had flowed all day. The crowd was full of men who had been drinking, and they were now in a condition to quarrel.

Dorothy was kneeling in the center of the women. Malcom forced his way up to the edge of the sidewalk in front of the saloon. He had never loved his wife as he loved her now. Her face was glorified by the Spirit's work with in. He was conscious of an unusual disturbance behind him, coming from the saloon. There were shouts and oaths and a pistol shot. But still he continued to gaze at Dorothy, who as calmly as if in her own room kneeled there while the confusion in front of the saloon increased. And never again in all his life will Malcom Kirk feel the satanic venom he felt that night in the rum power which on that eventful day faced the prayers and the homes of the women of Kansas. [TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

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