

# EVERY PASTOR A CONFESSOR.

### That's What Dr. Sheldon Would Like to See.

## ADVICE AND GOOD CHEER.

Author of "In His Steps" Does Not Believe in Forgiveness of Sin by a Minister—The Confessional Not Entirely a Spiritual Matter.

The Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, pastor of the Central Congregational church of Topeka, Kan., author of "In His Steps" and several other widely read books, believes that every pastor of a Protestant church should have a confessional, where the members of his flock could go to their pastor and pour their troubles into a willing ear and receive wholesome advice. He does not intend that this confession should be in the nature of that followed by the Catholic church, where forgiveness of sin is given by the father confessor. It should be a place where those heavily laden with cares and trials and tribulations could unload their burdens.

**On Trial in Boston.**  
"The relations of the minister to his congregation," Dr. Sheldon said, "should be such that the members would be free to go to him and confess their troubles and receive advice. I do not in the least advocate the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins, but it seems to me that the minister, in order to fulfill his full duty to the church and to his flock, ought to make himself so useful that the members would feel free to confide in him about anything that concerns them. The Baptist Emmanuel church of Boston is carrying out this idea now. I have been working along this line for many years.

"The confessional is not entirely a spiritual matter. It is a place where people can carry their troubles of whatever kind or nature, business, spiritual and religious, family affairs and purely personal matters. It is the working out of the plan to give more help to the congregation. Some ministers work with the idea that their connection with the affairs of the congregation ends with the preaching of the sermons and the calls and the perfunctory routine followed by all. There is much other good work that can be done and ought to be done.

**Catholic Church Understands.**  
"The Roman Catholic church has understood human nature for centuries. The Protestants have not had this understanding. The Catholic confessional contemplates the forgiveness of sins, but its chief hold has been in aiding the members of the church bear the burdens they have to carry. Human endurance will bear up under certain troubles to a certain extent, and then it snaps. If one is able to tell his troubles to another in whom he has confidence and who may be able to give advice and aid, the troubled one feels better and stronger after the telling, although the trouble may not be solved or lightened in the least. That is human nature.

"It is the duty of the minister to be the close friend of every member of his flock. He should do a real service and be a real help at all times. Men and women come to me for advice. They tell me of their family affairs, their business prospects and reverses and almost everything imaginable. I give them the best advice I can, I counsel with them, I console with them, and I try to help them solve the troubles that come to them. It gives them greater peace of mind. They do not break down. After confiding in me and talking over their worries they go away stronger and better men and women and children and become more useful to themselves, their friends and the world.

"That is the idea I have in the confessional for Protestant churches. Every church should have one. Every minister should have certain hours when the members of his congregation could go to his study and tell him their worries and be given as good spiritual, business and social advice as any minister should be able to give—advice that no lawyer and few other friends could give."

### BURIED DOG NEAR WIFE.

Phelps Also Intended to Erect Monument, but Neighbors Protested.  
Although he had stoutly declared that nothing could force him to take the step, George W. Phelps of East Hampton, Mass., finally acquiesced in the wishes of his excited neighbors and removed the body of his dog from a spot near his wife's grave.  
Mr. Phelps buried the animal in his lot in a cemetery, and as it had been a faithful friend for years he said he intended to erect a monument to it. This brought forth protests from persons who have relatives buried in the cemetery, and the local authorities took the matter up. So vigorous were the protests that the authorities had announced a special meeting to discuss the case and hear the advice of counsel when Mr. Phelps gave in and said he would take the dog's body out of the burying ground.

**England's Dairy Expense.**  
During 1910 England paid to foreign countries \$35,000,000 for eggs and \$40,000,000 for poultry.

### DAMES AND DAUGHTERS.

Professor Charlotte F. Roberts of Wellesley college has been elected a fellow of the American Association For the Advancement of Science.

Mrs. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, wife of Representative Hitchcock of Omaha is regarded as the most skillful piano player among the wives of members of congress.

Miss Grace Shepherd, the recently elected state superintendent of public instruction for Idaho, was educated at the Kansas Normal school and the University of Chicago.

Mary Anderson Navarro, once a popular stage favorite, says she idled away her school days and was unsuccessful as a student. Her son, Jose Maria, is now a sturdy boy of fifteen.

Miss Anna Beggs of Memphis, Tenn., is now a deputy clerk and master of chancery. She now has the right to swear witnesses and sign court papers. She is the first woman in Tennessee to hold that position.

### The Writers.

Charles G. D. Roberts, the poet and naturalist, makes a canoe journey every summer.

Dr. Henry C. McCook, the author, is a member of that family which was famous in the annals of Pennsylvania as the "fighting McCooks."

Ellis Parker Butler, the humorist, is one of trade journalism's contributions to literature. He formerly was the editor of the Wall Paper News.

Thomas Nelson Page, the novelist, was born on a plantation in Virginia, has lived nearly all his life on a Virginia plantation and expects to end his days there.

### Congressional Cuts.

What this country needs are some extraordinary sessions for the unmaking of superfluous and undesirable laws.—Atlanta Journal.

Funny, isn't it, but even the congressmen who are keener for enforcing a two cent passenger rate upon the railroads invariably vote themselves mileage at the rate of 20 cents.—Newark News.

If the newspapers habitually printed such incorrect reports of the proceedings in congress as are to be found in the Congressional Record under the "leave to print" fiction they would one and all be denounced as frauds.—Utica Observer.

### Feminine Fashions.

An Indiana woman was fined a dollar for making fun of another woman's hat. Poetic justice would have been to make her wear it.—Albany Journal.

The wide range of women's fashions is illustrated by a comparison of the present day hobble skirt with the ample hoop skirt of fifty years ago.—Nashville Banner.

Women are wearing much larger shoes than they used to, says the Shoe Dealers' association. What does that prove? They're wearing bigger hats too.—Detroit News.

### Fandom Fancies.

A hit over the fence is worth four in the field.—Judge.

The average umpire stands in need of a thorough sandpapering of the voice.—Denver Republican.

Our observation is that no amount of excuses has the slightest effect upon a ball team's standing in the percentage table.—Houston Post.

We suggest that people wishing to make engagements with us set the time before 3 o'clock during the rest of the baseball season.—Atlanta Journal.

### Telephone Calls.

On Jan. 1 Philadelphia and its suburbs had a telephone for every eleven residents.

The telephone system installed in Peking is now in operation, with more than 3,000 subscribers. The Chinese government owns and operates the system.

The principal telephone company of Spain, with stations in Madrid, Barcelona and seventeen other cities, has only 3,795 subscribers. The city of San Sebastian has a municipal telephone service.

### Facts From France.

The average consumption of matches in France is 1,146 per person each year, representing a cost of about 23 cents.

In the whole of pleasure loving France there are not more than 250 hunting women, according to a Paris statistician.

A Frenchman who enjoys the distinction of being the champion wine taster of the world at the age of seventy-five has certified over 450,000 barrels of wine.

### Sporting Notes.

June 20 is the date of the Harvard-Yale regatta.

Grand circuit tracks will award \$125,500 to the trotters and \$73,500 to the pacers.

James F. Kelly, a New York policeman, is now world's champion hand ball player.

Manager Jimmy McAleer of the Washington team says he has the greatest bunch of catchers in the world in Gabby Street, Eddie Ainsmith and John Henry.

# IN THE REALM OF FASHION

### Tucked and Scalloped Blouse.

Very fine white delaine is the material intended for this pretty shirt, with silk covered buttons and a plisse grand father frill of soft white lawn.

Groups of pin tucks create a pleasing fullness in the front, and this dainty decorative treatment is repeated on the deep cuffs and collar, the latter concluding with a small plisse tucker of the lawn.

By cutting the right side of front in scalloped pannes, a method also pur-



TUCKED DELAINE BLOUSE

sued with the cuffs, and punctuating each curve with a fairly large button a decidedly original effect is achieved. The scalloped front and edges of cuffs could be outlined by a fine piping of some dainty printed silk, the same, of course, requisitioned for the buttons. It is in these suggestions of color relief that the essence of chic is found.

### Their Ammunition.

"I see where they had to send the soldiers to put down the riots in the French champagne districts."

"Yes."

"I suppose to make their volleys effective they used grape shot."—Baltimore American.

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Open to everyone alike, men, women and children, subscribers and non-subscribers. Old and young, rich and poor. Remember two cents a word for the three best kicks.

There must be something you don't like. Kick about it. What good is an editor anyway except to fix up the kicks of his readers? Relieve your mind and get a prize! **KICK! KICK! KICK!**

A few suggested subjects at which to kick! The weather, of course. Tight fitting shoes. The high cost of living. The hobble skirt and the Harem trousers. High hats on week days. Suffragism, etc., etc., etc. The funnier the better.

Several people have asked us if the fifty-word letters containing kicks have to be signed. How else will we know to whom to award the prizes? Whether in the event of the letter winning a prize and being published, the name of the kicker would appear is another question. Undoubtedly the writer's wishes would be followed on that score. Our idea of the "Kick Contest" includes everything except direct and offensive personalities. Sit right down now and dash off fifty words about anything you don't like and want to register a kick against. It won't take you five minutes and you may win a prize. The more original the subject the better chance for a prize. One dollar for less than five minutes work is pretty good pay. Of course you can make your kick as short as you wish. A clever fifteen-word kick may win a prize over a full-length fifty-word one. The shorter the better.

For the best kick of ten words or less The Citizen will pay an additional prize of one dollar. Now then, lace up your shoes and let drive!