CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TOPEKA, KAN.

REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON

HOME OF REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON.

AUTHOR OF "IN HIS STEPS."

"IN HIS STEPS; or, What Would Jesus Do?" by Rev. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka, has reached a sale greater than any story ever published. It has been translated into no less than nine languages, and over 2,000,000 copies have been sold. It cannot be said that the author did not, in a sense, anticipate a widespread circulation, for he stipulated with the publishers that the book be printed in a cheap as well as expensive edition, so that it might be within the reach of all.

In 1891 Mr. Sheldon adopted a new plan of Sunday evening services in the central congregational church at Topeka. During the winter he read to his story, entitled "Richard Bruce," each chapter served as a Sunday evening sermon. The new way of preaching Christianity met with approval, and more than he has written 11 stories, which have been read in the same fashion. "Richard Bruce" was written in 1891, "Robert Hardy's Seven Days" in 1892, "The Twentieth Time" in 1895, "The Crucifixion of Philip Strong" in 1896, "King's Question Class" in 1897, "His Brother's Keeper" in 1898, "In His Steps" in 1898, "Malcolm Kirk" in 1899, "The Miracle of Freedom" in 1899, "One of the Two" in 1899, "The Miracle of Markham" in 1899, and "For Christ and the Church" in 1899.

Although Mr. Sheldon has written a dozen books, he is known best as the author of "In His Steps." The book was not copyrighted in England, and 10 pirated editions in that country were issued. It has been translated into French, German, Russian, Italian, Armenian, Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish and dialects of western Africa. Since the edition in the United States, which sell as low as 10 cents a copy, Mr. Sheldon's income is estimated at $150 per month.

Mr. Sheldon is by nature a retiring man, and almost drolls subjects. He will not talk for publication and never reads his books that take. He has had numerous offers to enter the lecture field, but refuses them all, preferring to accept invitations to lecture before religious societies without compensation. A writer for an eastern religious paper interviewed him as follows:

"I am coming to Topeka to study a book to read full of your methods and motives in writing and the work of your church in detail. The article will be syndicated and will be printed in nearly every paper in the country."

Mr. Sheldon replied immediately as follows:

"You need not come. I will not talk to you. I have some rights which you are bound to respect."

When told that the people who read his books would like to know about the author, he said: "That is more his curiosity. I do not wish to be talked about, or to have my church work talked about. The message I have for these people among whom I live I pay to my sermons. The message I have for the world at large I give in my books. I have nothing more to say."

Although he avoids notoriety, he is willing to speak when an opportunity presents itself to further the cause of religion or humanity. He believes in personal ownership of public utilities, and has advocated the subject at home and abroad. He affiliates with no political party, but is loud campaigner when this point was in motion. He has made speeches in favor of public ownership. He believes that water and light plants, together with street car lines, should be operated by cities.

Charles M. Sheldon was born in Wellsboro, N. Y., and is 38 years of age. His father died when Charles was a boy, and was actively engaged in military work which ended the Indians. The young man's early education was received in the country schools. Later he was educated from Phillips academy, Andover, Massachusetts, and the Andover Theological seminary. After his graduation he went to England where he spent several months studying the money question in London and Hungary. He became pastor of an old church at Waterbury, Vt., now his home, and he has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Central congregational church in Topeka.

At one time he measured his congregation by numbers, but now he measures it by the good he can do. He has not been any of church services. For several months he visited the oil fields, spent of wage earners in a short season. Upon his return home he found the gate of a laborer, secured a "job" and went to work. He worked as a workingman longer in the cultured sense and spent some time on the road with the tramps. He mingled with the lawyers and doctors and finally entered Washington as a lobbyist, as a student. He joined the schemes in ethnic groups and mingled sociably. His special field of labor was that in "Tenderloin," the negro quarter of Topeka.

The result of his work in some settlements in the negro quarter. The dives were closed and disorderly houses were transformed into gardens and flower beds. Times were altered for the best and honest, respect grew, dives thrive, and the negro population has been wonderful. A few working men and businessmen have established a fund for the support of the work. "The Redemption of Paradise" is the story of the work among the negro. Through his efforts a kindergarten was established in connection with the church, and the kindergarten is fastened to an operation.

When asked if "In His Steps" was based upon any work, Mr. Sheldon said: "The story 'In His Steps' was written was purely imaginary. I know of no such person or character as described. It was not founded upon facts. And it was written with a desire that the readers might become real. Since the story was written I have heard of many and characters who are very much like those in the book."

Mr. Sheldon is married and has one child, a boy. His home is in a cottage on College hill. It is of his wife he is fond to the study of his church.

One of his ideas is for a Christian newspaper to be established in Topeka. He has a "Sunday" to subscribe Epworth League, Christian Endeavor, Christian daily newspaper in Chicago. He believes that the time will come when the dream will be a reality.

THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice in South Africa is shown in the accompanying illustration. Recently, when months elapsed on a cherry street, Cape Town, a large white wagon was found transfer to contract in front of the private postoffice. This was the first postoffice in South Africa. It is of Her Sam from Royal board for England and shipped to new Colonial South Central. The "Her mail look for letters." Further down the road another hand had another fifth. Jan Hendrik Gerrit, Barton and Bangkok, 21 Zoo Lane. It is proposed that the fifth hill by Cape Town, at which he was one machine were taken on seven from now to Jan Cloek and then delivered to him, he said: and mail being left on the street to show that he had done so.

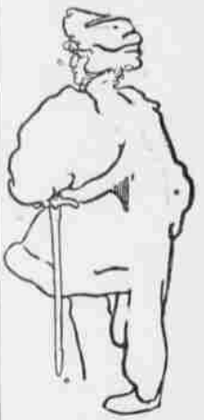
COSTLY TRAVELING.

The most expensive railroad to travel through, perhaps, has which is now up in Dawson, Yukon, in Dawson. Passengers can travel each way, but they are charged 1 cents per mile, and

upon a proceedings is not permitted to go through the mile without a little deposit of Yukon. In the tobacco by the of a dimes. One hill is here by family through Dawson Dome, and gate will be personally medical before he has passed along his way.

MAKING FUN OF REMBRANDT.

Here Rembrandt as Hamlet was not disgusted a success in Rembrandt, where he has been a dose-eyed sensitive for

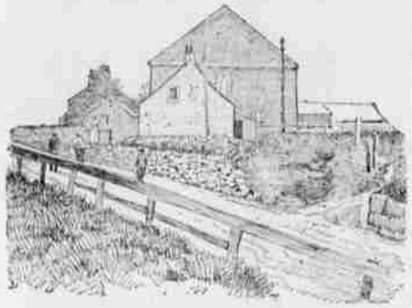


all models who take liberties with their beloved Willie Shakespeare. So the divine Dick had a good deal of fun poked at his during his English engagement. The accompanying cut, in connection with this, will show just how Gordon Craig, the talented son of Ellen Terry, stack up Rembrandt as the melancholy Dane. Mr. Craig, by the way, is at present editor of The Page, a crazy little publication now being brought out in England.

A NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP.

The Duke of York's head is the figure which decorates the new 2 cent stamp of the colony of Newfoundland. The issuance of the new stamp marks the fifth of a series of royal portrait stamps issued by Queen's direct order. The Duke of York is the first, by the way, to an authoritative stamp collector, and is of great interest, the good offices of the London philatelic society. The Newfoundland series is as follows: Prince Edward of Wales, one-half cent; Queen Victoria, 1 cent; Prince of Wales, 2 cents; Princess of Wales, 3 cents, and Duke of York, 5 cents.

THE REAL WINDOW IN THRUMS.



The many thousand readers of Barrie in America who have pored over the pages of that delightful book, "A Window in Thrums," will scarcely wish to visit the accompanying place, which was the "Thrums" window so described in the young Scottish novelist. The window of Brae was on the second floor, while the window in reality, as shown in the picture, is a small attic window in the gable end of the house. From it, however, it is possible, as from the window of the author's creation, to command not only a full view of the "brae," but also the greater portion of the house top of "Thrums," which have in reality the village of Kirriemuir.

AN INTREPID ASIATIC EXPLORER.

Here is the latest photograph of Dr. Sven Hedin, the young but already famous Asiatic explorer, taken before he started on his second journey into central Asia. This adventurous young Swede will spend several years in traveling once more through the unknown parts of Asia, taking a new route through Asiatic Russia and Turkestan. Hedin will travel accompanied only by his old Asiatic servant, Islam, the man who was with the explorer on his first memorable journey through the unknown regions of Chinese Turkestan and Tibet, as well described in the explorer's recently published book.

The man, who has taken the greatest interest in the work accomplished by Dr. Hedin, has issued orders that every facility be given the traveler while he is in Russian territory, and has provided a special escort of Cossacks for him through Asiatic Russia. On reaching Kashgar Dr. Hedin will proceed in an easterly direction for the purpose of making fresh investigations in Chinese Turkestan, where he hopes to make new discoveries among the antiquities of the aboriginal country. After this he will explore the unknown Lob region and cross the great Asiatic and desert by various routes. These he will make his way down through Tibet to India, where all his work, of course, will be for purely scientific purposes. Ring Cocay of Swedish will defray the expense of the long journey, which will amount to $15,000, and Lord Curzon, the new viceroy of India, will give him every assistance while he is in British territory.

WHERE THE JAP ENJOYS REST.

Here is a picture of Japan's favorite health resort, where the fashionable fan goes when mental distraction makes it necessary for him to "take the waters." It is about 100 odd miles from Tokyo, and known as Tamanoi. Near the Tamanoi Tokoni there are several hot springs, the waters of which are universally drank by Northern Japan in preference to those near Tokyo. On the hill shown in the background of the picture there is a sanitarium, below which are the bathhouses where those Complete suffering from chronic affections and diseases of the digestive organs flock for treatment. The sanitarium is conducted by daily increasing thousands in the milder months of the year for fresh air.

Tamanoi, of late, has been invaded by the Mikadoites Tourists, who has discovered the wonderful scenery of its waters and the health giving qualities of its mountain air. The result has been a sudden metamorphosis of what previously was a primitive little inland Japanese town, and it is not improbable that Tamanoi will in time rank with the Riviera as a fashionable health resort.

A CANNIBAL'S CLEVER SON.

Hon W. Fonsare is a New Zealander who will fairly astonish in a manner not usual from his fellow-men. The half-caste gentleman, whose picture is shown in the accompanying illustration, is the acquaintance-descendant of a long line of cannibal chiefs. Though he was at one time a native Maori king, he is now a hardworking medical student in the United States and is a well-educated, pleasant spoken young gentleman, with good manners and a clear voice, combined with the broad chest and physique of the trained athlete. His name has been Anglicized, but he is known as Mr. William Fonsare and is destined to become a college student as an expert football player.

AN INDIAN PROPHET.

The name of this dusky gentleman is Pundit Tarini Prasad Pandant, and his business is that of a prophet. Each year he gravely publishes in the newspapers of Calcutta forecasts of events for the forthcoming 12 months, and has other Indian fashions, often makes a heavy bit. This, by the way, is the manner in which he has stood up Lady Chiromo.

He is possessed of great and good means. His eyes are beautiful and bright, and indicative of greatness and great attributes. He will be fellow herself and come down to his business.

THE TOWER OF YORK.

It was from the tower of Micklegate Bar, shown in the accompanying illustration, that the head of the unfortunate Duke of York was hung four centuries and a half ago by order of Queen Margaret. York was once in the hands of Wakefield Green in 1460, and by order

of the queen his head was ironically crowned with a paper broke and hung at the entrance tower of the city of York, so that "York might contemn the town of York."

A RECORD BREAKING RIDE.

The accompanying picture shows the gallant horse from Lane, which will long be carried to fame from Vienna to Paris, a distance of 1[illegible] miles, in 6[illegible] days, distances quite a day, so could not [illegible] in less than the average riding horse can travel through the [illegible] of Oklahoma, but high time arrived at her destination some [illegible] for long [illegible]. It offer to the [illegible] was M. Charles [illegible], an adventurous French Professor, who [illegible] of Embassador the [illegible] was to [illegible] Schmidt's record of 14 days.

MEN OF MARK.

Dr. Felix Dorset, a surgeon of the French navy, has received a number of [illegible] medals.

The archbishop of Canterbury is paid $1,000 a year more than President McKinley enjoys.

Captain Colin Keppel is the youngest captain in the British navy, being only 37 year old. He is the son of Sir Harry Keppel, the admiral of the fleet.

The Paris correspondent of London Truth says that General Colville had a Scotch ancestry. The last Jew of his [illegible] was baptized in the reign of Louis XIII. He was christened Louis Bailleton, or Louis-made-a-Frenchman. This was corrupted into Colville. The fortunate of the convoy purchased high financial and political posts in the province.

President Loubet has purchased the Chateau de Mauzac, a famous country seat in the department of the Dordogne, his native district. The chateau, which has long been in the possession of the De Tinan family, was for a time the residence of Diane de Poitiers. Her bed is still preserved in the castle, which is an imposing structure, flanked by four massive towers, crowned by a central dominated tower, and containing a hundred windows on its front aspect. The building stands in a park of 50 acres.

The German emperor when receiving foreign representatives at military attaches of foreign powers always wears the uniform of the army of the country the Heine [illegible] and [illegible] during a long [illegible] Chicago [illegible] in Constantinople.

In the heart of foreign Vanderbilt's estate near Asheville is a gold mined by an old negro, who from there and Pa. Cotton to end. He says he has been [illegible] all his life by hell [illegible] and now that he has a gold cure he will not [illegible].

Sir Hedon Hook, the new British governor [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]