20.

DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1900.

CRUCIFIXION OF PHILIP STRONG

TERS.

Chapter I .-- Phillp Strong, a minister, receives two calls, one to a college town, where he may live a quiet, scholarly life, to his liking, the other to a manufacturing town, where there is plenty of work to do among the laboring classes. He accepts the more active gambling houses. He interviews one of them and is advised that he had better not stir up the subject, and Mr. Winter, one of his most prominent parishioners, having property rented for such purposes, rises from his seat and walks out of the church. The next morning Winter calls on the minister and recents what he calls an insult to himself, then, threatening to withdraw his support from the church, retires in high dudgeon. The sermon creates great excitement, and next Sunday a large crowd attends Philip's church, expecting a sensational sermon, but Philip disappoints them, preaching on a different subject entirely, 1V .- Philip attacks the saloons and preaches against them to a large congregation. He calls upon the people to join with him in an attempt to exterminate them. Later he himself defending the minister. leaves his house to visit a slok child, and a man on the opposite side of the street fires two shots at him. V .- Philip has been severely though not mortally wounded. His assissin is arrested and at Philip's request, is brought before him. Philip assures him that he bears him no ill will and prays for him. VI.-Philip preaches on the Sunday question and makes new en-emies. Coming home one evening, he emies. Coming home one evening, in finds his wife in a faint on the floor, a knife stuck into the desk and two addressed "To anonymous scrawls, one addressed "To the Preacher," the other, "To the Preacher's Wife." VII.—They were warnings to leave the town. The minister's wife begs her husband to leave the field for another, but instead he prepares to continue the war against the devil there and in his own fashion. VIII .- Philip astonishes his parishioners by proposing to move their church edifice into the tenement district. He speaks to the laboring men at their hall and unintentionally influences them egainst the rich by holding up the selfishness of many rich people. When he goes home he is informed that a mob is threatening Mr. Winter at his residence, IX.-Philip goes to the scene of the trouble and rescues Wr. Winter from the mob. and XI.-Philip preaches against wasteful expenditures hen the poor are in need and is visited by a stranger, who asks for food and shelter, who tells his benefactor that he lives too extravagantly for one who preaches against extravagance. Philip liad spoken oftenest rose to his feet. he lives too extravagantly for one who calls him "Brother Man."

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAP- | of the minister with his head bent TERS.

emotion both for and against the pas-His naturally inclined business tor. habits contended against the proposition to give up the parsonage. His feelings of gratitude to the minister for his personal help the night of the at-tack by the mob rose up to defend him. There was with it all an undercurrent of self administered rebuke that the ing classes. He accepts the more active field. II and III.—Philip discovers that a number of his wealthy parishioners have property rented for saloons and gambling houses. He interviews one of ed in a confused way how much he would give up himself. Philip's ser-mon had made a real impression on

"There is one point we have not discussed yet," he said at last, "and that is Mr. Strong's offer of half his salary to carry on the work of a chil-dren's refuge or something of that kind.

'How can we accept such an offer? Calvary church has always believed in paying its minister a good salary and paying it promptly, and we want our minister to live decently and be able to appear as he should among the best people," replied the nervous little man who had been first to speak.

Still, we connot deny that it is a very generous thing for Mr. Strong to do. He certainly is entitled to cred-it for his unselfish proposal. No one can charge him with being worldly minded," said Mr. Winter, feeling a new interest in the subject as he found binself Actoriant the minister

"Are you in favor of allowing him to do what he proposes in the matter of the parsonage?" asked another.

'I don't see that we can hinder Mr. Strong from living anywhere pleases if he wants to. The ch The church cannot compel him to live in the parsonage

"No, but it can choose not to have such a minister!" exclaimed the first speaker again excitedly, "and I for one am most decidedly opposed to the whole thing. I do not see how the church can allow it and maintain its self respect.

"Do you think the church is ready to tell Mr. Strong that his services are not wanted any longer?" asked Mr. Winter coldly.

"I am, for one of the members, and I know others who feel as I do if mat-ters go in this way much longer. I tell you, Brother Winter, Calvary church is very near a crisis. Look at the Goldene and the Malverns and the Allower. They are all leaving us and Albergs. They are all leaving us, and the plain reason is the nature of the preaching. Why, you know yourself, Brother Winter, that never has the pulpit of Calvary church heard such preaching on people's private affairs," Mr. Winter colored and replied angri-

ly: "What has that to do with this present matter? If the minister wants to live in a simple style, I don't see what business we have to stop it. As As to the disposition of the parsonage, that is a matter of business which rests with the church to arrange.

## By Rev. Charles M. Sheldon,

Author of "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" "Malcom Kirk," "Robert Hardy's Seven Days," Etc.

## rowful. But there breathed from his

it of sacrifice in material thiogs. It is in valu for us to preach spiritual truths unless we live physical truths. What the world is looking for today are object essons in self denial on the part of Christian people."

For a moment no one spoke. Then Mr. Winfer said:

Mr. Winter said: "About your proposal that this house be turned into a refuge or home for homeless children, Mr. Strong, do you consider that idea practicable? Is it business? Is it possible?"

"I believe it is, very decidedly. The number of homeless and vagrant chli-dren at present in Milton would aston-ish you. This house could be put into ish you. This house could be put into beautiful shape as a detention house until homes could be found for the children in Christian families. 'It would take a great deal of money

to manage it. "Yes," replied Philip with a sudness which had its cause deep within him, "It would cost something. But can the world be saved cheaply? Does not every

soul saved cost an immense sum, if not of money at least of an equivalent? Is it possible for us to get at the heart of



the great social problem without feeling the need of using all our powers to solve it rightly?" Mr. Winter shook his head. He did

not understand the minister. His action and his words were both foreign to the mill owner's regular business habits of thought and performance.

"What will you do, Mr. Strong, if the

on Philip's part. It would be presenting ! on Philip's part. It would be presenting the church in a faise light to picture it as entirely opposed up to this date to Philip's preaching and ideas of Christian living. He had built up a strong buttress of admiring and be-lieving members in the church. This stood, with Mr. Winter's influence, as a breakwater against the tidal wave of ormedition new basimlas to pour in peace The question was put wistfully. Philip was struck by the difference and the self invitation of a month be-

opposition now beginning to pour in upon him. There was an element in Cavalry church conservative to a degree and yet strong in its growing be-lief that Christian action and church work in the world had reached a cer-tain crisis which would result either in the death or life of the church in America. Philip's preaching had strengthened this feeling. His last move had started this element, and it wished to wait for developments. The proposal of some that the minister be requested to resign was finally overruled, and it was decided not to oppose his desertion of the parsonage. while the matter of reduction of salary was voted upon in the negative. But feeling was roused to a high pitch Many of the members declared their intention of refusing to attend

services. Some said they would not pay their pledges any longer. A pre vailing majority, however, ruled in favor of Philip, and the action of the meeting was formally sent him by the clerk

Meanwhile Philip moved out of the parsonage into his new quarters. The daily paper, which had given a sensational account of his sermon, laying most stress upon his voluntary proposi-tion referring to his salary, now came out with a column and a half devoted to his carrying out of his determination to abandon the parsonage and get nearer the people in the tenements. The article was widely copied and variously commented upon. In Milton his ac-tion was condemned by many, defended by some. Very few seemed to un-derstand his exact motive. The majority took it as an eccentric move and expressed regret in one form and another that a man of such marked in-tellectual power as Mr. Strong seemed to possess lacked balance and good judgment. Some called him a crank. The people in the tenement district were too much absorbed in their suffer-ings and selfishness to show any demwhether they would be any better touched by him in his new home.

So matters stood when the first Sun-day of the new month came and Mr. light like supremest reason flashed over the man's face and then died out "Yes, yes; you are beginning to live on Strong again stood before his church with his Christ message. It had been your simple basis. You are doing as a wearing month to him. Gradually there had been growing upon him a sense of almost isolation in his pulpit work. He wondered if he had inter-preted Christ aright. He probed deepyou preach. That must feel good." "Yes," replied Philip, "it does feel good. Do you think, Brother Man, that er and deeper into the springe of action that moved the historical Jesus and again and again put that personality into his own pulpit in Milton and ther stood off, as it were, to watch what He would in all human probability say. reviewed all his own sayings on those first Sundays and tried to tax himself with utmost severity for any denial of his Master or any false presentation of His spirit, and as he went over the ground he was almost over-whelmed to think how little had been eally accomplished. This time he came before the church with the experience of nearly three weeks' hand to hand work among the people for whose sake he had moved out of the parsonage. As usual an immense thronged the church. congregation "The question has come to me lately in different forms," began Philip, "as what is church work. I am aware "It that my attitude on the question is not shared by many of the members of this church and other churches. Nev-ertheless I stand here today, as I have stood on these Sundays, to declare to you what the deepest humility would seem to me to be the attitude of Christ in the matter before us. "What is a church? It is a body of disciples professing to acknowledge Christ as Master. What does He want such a body to do? Whatever will most effectively make God's kingdom come on earth and His will be done as in heaven. What is the most neces-sary work of this church in Milton? It is to go out and seek and save the lost. It is to take up its cross and follow the Master. And as I see Him to-day He beckons this church to follow Him into the tenements and slums of this town and be Christ to those who do not know Him. As I see Him He stands beckoning with pierced paims in the direction of suffering and disease and ignorance and vice and pa-ganism, saying, 'Here is where the ganism, saying, 'Here is where the work of Cavalry church lies.' I do not believe the work of the church consists of having so many meetings and socials and pleasant gatherings and de lightful occasions among its own mem-bers, but the real work of this church consists in getting out of its own little circle in which it has been so many years moving and going in any way most effective to the world's wounded to bind up the hurt and be a savior to the lost. If we do not understand this to be the true meaning of church work, then I believe we miss its whole meaning. Church work in Milton today does not consist in doing simply what your fathers did before you. It means lping to make a cleaner town, the purification of our municipal life, the actual planning and accomplishment of means to relieve physical distress, a thorough understanding of the problem of labor and capital-in brief, church work today in this town is whatever is most needed to be done to prove to this town that we are what we profess ourselves to be, disciples of Jesus Christ. That is the reason I give more time to the tenement district problem than to calling on families that are well and in possession of great comforts and That is the reason that I privileges. on this church to do Christ's world in His name and give itself to save that part of our town." This is but the briefest of the This is but the orient of twist a sketches of Philip's sermon. It was a part of himself, his experience, his heart belief. He poured it out on the vast audience with little saving of his vitality. And that Sunday he went nome at night exhausted, with a feeling weariness partly due to his work during the week among the peo-ple. The calls upon his time and strength had been incessant, and he did not know when or where to stop. It was three weeks after this serchurch work that Philip was again surprised by his strange visitor a month before. He had been out making some visits in company with When they came back to the ils wife couse, there sat the Brother Man on the doorstep.

in him which called out such confi- names for membership to meet at

Mr. Strong soothed his wife, clasping her to him tenderly. "There, Sarah, you are nervous and tired. I am a little discouraged, but strong and hearty for the work. Brother Man, you must We

not think we regret your advice. have been blessed by following it." And then their remarkable guest stretched out his arms through the gathering gloom in the room and seemed to biess them. Later in the even. ing he again called for a Bible and offered a prayer of wondrous swest-ness. He was shown to his plainly fur. nished room. He looked around and smiled

"This is like my old home," he said: "a palace, where the poor die of hun-

Philip started at the odd remark, then recollected that the old man had once been wealthy, and sometimes in his half dazed condition Philip thought probable he confounded the humblest surroundings with his once luxurious He lingered a moment, and the man said, as if speaking to him-self, "If they do not renounce all they have, they cannot be my disciples. "Good night, Brother Man," cried Philip as he went out,

ward related by the minister to his wife. A part of it he afterward said "Good night, Christ's man," replied his guest. And Philip went to his rest that night, great questions throbbing in him and the demands of the Master more distinctly brought to his attention than ever. "You have moved since I saw you

Again, as before when he rose in the morning, he found that his visitor was gone. His eccentric movements accounted for his sudden disappearances, but they were disappointed. They wanted to see their guest again and question him about his history, They promised themselves he would do so next time.

The following Sunday Philip preached one of those sermons which come to a man once or twice in a whole minis. It was the last Sunday of the month and not a special occasion. But there had surged into his thought the meaning of the Christian life with such uncontrollable power that his sermon reached hearts never before touched. He remained at the close of the ervice to talk with several young men, who seemed moved as never before After they had gone away he went into his own room back of the platform to get something he had left there and to his surprise found the church sexton kneeling down by one of the chaire. As the minister came in the man rose

and turned toward him. "Mr. Strong, I want to be a Christian. I want to join the church and lead a different life."

Philip clasped his hand, while tears rolled over the man's face. He stayed and talked with him and prayed with him, and when he finally went home minister was convinced it was as strong and true a conversion as he had ever seen. He at once related the story to his wife, who had gone on before to get dinner. 'Why, Philip," she exclaimed when

he said the sexton wanted to be bap-tized and unite with the church at the next communion, "Cavalry church will never allow him to unite with us!"

minister's house on the Monday

ing preceding the preparatory

At that service all names pre

the committee were form

on by the church. The com

"Brother Strong, I'm afraid the churg will object."

tion was generally considered for and the voting was in accordance was the committee's report.

So when the committee came in the evening following the Sunday that has witnessed the conversion of the series Philip had ready a list of names. cluding several young men. It was very precious list to him. It seen almost for the first time since he can to Milton as if the growing oppos to him was about to be checked and finally submerged beneath a power the Holy Spirit, which it was Phil daily prayer might come and day work which he alone could not do The was one reason he had borne the fee

ing against himself so calmiy. Philip read the list over to the cos-mittee, saying something briefly aba nearly all the applicants for member. ship and expressing his joy that the young men especially were coming is to the church family. When he read ed the sexton's name, he related is ply the scene with him after the man

ing service. There was an awkward hause the The committee was plainly asimas ed. Finally one said: "Brother Sing I'm afraid the church will object ton ceiving the sexton. What is his name" "Henry Roland." "Why, he has been sexton of Caray

church for ten years," said anothe, an older member of the committee an older member of the communi-Deacon Stearns by name. "He has been an honest, capable man. I see heard any complaint of him. He has always minded his own business Her-ever, I don't know how the churt will take it to consider him as a sp plicant for membership."

"Why, brethren, how can it tak a in any except the Christian way" all Philip eagerly. "Here is a man vis gives evidence of being born and He cannot be present tonight whet is He cannot be present tonight when the other applicants come in later own

to work he must do, but I can say

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Stearns answered

him that he gave all evidence most sincere and thorough conv

more than average intelligence. not a person to thrust himself

places where people do not wish him-

temperate, industrious, modest, que

workman, a Christian believer askir

you ask such a question. There is

near the railroad tracks. I don't be-

of whom murmured assent in one form

or another, "And yet," said Philip, roused to I

sudden heat of indignation. "and yff, what is Calvary church doing to high

cerned about them at all except what our coal or wood or clothing is stoke or some one is held up down that!

And when one of them knocks at the

door of the church can we calmly an

cause God made it a different col

from ours?" Philip stopped and the

finished by saying very quick, "Brothren, do you think Christ would

receive this man into the church?

There was no reply for a met

Then Deacon Stearns answere "Brother Strong, we have to deal will

humanity as it is. You cannot make puople all over. This prejudice exists

coldly shut it in his face simply

to make those men down by the road tracks any better? Are we

us to receive him at the communica

He wishes to be bantized, to unite with the church.

ble of our Lord.



entire bearing the element of a perfect

"Can you keep me over night?"

between this almost shrinking request

fore. "Yes, indeed. We have one spare room for you. You are welcome. Come

So they went in, and after tea the

Strong was busy in the kitchen. A part of this conversation was after

was unreportable-the manner of tone, the inflection, the gesture of his re-

markable guest no man could repro-

last," said the visitor. "Yes," replied Philip. "You did not

expect me to act on your advice so

Mrs.

two sat down together while

"come in and rest yourself."

in.

duce.

soon

"Brother Man," said Philip cheerily,

## (Continued.)

## CHAPTER XIII.

The door of the classroom was closed and Philip and the trustees were -10 gether. There was a moment of embar-rassing silence, and then the spokesman for the board, a nervous little man, said:

'Mr. Strong, we hardly know just what to say to this proposition of yours this morning, about going out of the parsonage and turning it into an orphan asylum. But it is certainly a remarkable proposition, and felt as if we ought to meet you at once and talk it over.'

"It's simply impossible," spoke up one of the trustees. "In the first place, it is impracticable as a business proposition.

"Do you think so?" asked Philip quietly. "It is out of the question!" said the

first speaker excitedly. "The church will never listen to it in the world. For my part, if Brother Strong wishes At that moment the sexton knocked

at the door and said a man was outside very anxious to see the minister and come down to his h him There had been an accident or a fight or something. Some one was d and wanted Mr. Strong at once. Philip hastily excused himself Some one was dying

rent out, leaving the trustees together. The door was hardly shut again when the speaker who had been rupted jumped to his feet and ex-

"As I was saying, for my part if Brother Strong wishes to indulge in the eccentric action he will not have the sanction of my vote in the matter. It certainly is an entirely unheard of and uncalled for proposition."

"Mr. Strong has no doubt a generous motive in this proposed action," said a third member of the board, "but the church certainly will not approve any such step as the giving up of the parsonage. He exaggerates the need of such a sacrifice. I think we ought to reason him out of the idea." "We called Mr. Strong to the pastor-

of Calvary church, said unother "and it seems to me he came under the conditions granted in our call. the church to allow such an absurd thing as the giving up of the parsonage to this proposed outside work would be a very unwise move."

Yes, and more than that," said the speaker. "I want to say very frankly that I am growing tired of the way things have gone since Mr. Strong came to us. What business has Calwary church with all these outside matters, these labor troubles and unemployed men and all the other mat-ters that have been made the subject of preaching lately? I want a ministe who looks after his own parish. Mr Strong does not call on his own people He has not been inside my house but once since he came to Milton. Brethren, there is a growing feeling of dis-content over this matter."

There was a short pause, and then one of the members said:

"Surely if Mr. Strong feels dissatis-fied with his surroundings in the par-sonage or feels as if his work lay in another direction he is at liberty choose another parish. But he is the finest pulpit minister we ever had, and no one doubts his entire sincerity. He a remarkable man in many respects

"Yes, but sincerity may be awkward thing carried too far. And in this matter of the parsonage I don't what would the other churches think of it? Calvary church cannot allow anything of the kind for the sake of its reputation. But I would like to hear Mr. Winter's opinion. He has not spoken yet." The rest turned to the mill owner,

as chairman of the board, usual ly had much to say and was regarded as a shrewd and careful business ad-viser. In the excitement business adsion and discussion the usual formalities of a regular board meeting had

een ignored. Mr. Winter was evidently embarrage

of all this, then. I wash my hands of the whole affair." And he went out of the room, leaving the rest of the board somewhat surprised at his sudden departure.

They remained about a quarter of an hour longer discussing the matter, and finally, at Mr. Winter's suggestion, a committee was appointed to go and if he could not be persuaded to modify or change his proposition made in the morning sermon. The rest of the trusmorning sermon. The rest of the trus-tees insisted that Mr. Winter himself should act as chairman of the commit-tee, and after some remonstrance he finally, with great reluctance, agreed to do so So Philip next evening, as he sat in

his study mapping out the week's work and wondering a little what the church would do in the face of his pro posal, received the committee, welcom ing them in his bright, hearty man He had been notified on Sunday ner evening of the approaching confer ence. The committee consisted of Mr. Winter and two other members of the sard.

Mr. Winter opened the conversation with considerable embarrassment and an evident reluctance for his share in the matter,

"Mr. Strong, we have come, as you are aware, to talk over your proposition of yesterday morning concerning the parsonage. It was a great surprise to us all.

Philip smilled a little. "Mrs. Strong says I act too much on impulse and do not prepare people enough for my statements. But one of the greatest men I ever knew used to say that an impulse was a good thing to obey in-stantly if there was no doubt of its being a right one."

And do you consider this proposed move of yours a right one, Mr Strong?" asked Mr. Winter.

"I do," replied Philip, with quiet emphasis. "I do not regret making it, and I believe it is my duty to abide by my original decision.

Do you mean that you intend actually to move out of this parsonage?" asked one of the other members of the ally "Yes." Philip said it so quietly and

yet so decidedly that the men were lent a moment. Then Mr. Winter said

"Mr. Strong, this matter is likely to cause trouble in the church, and might as well understand it frankly. The trustees believe that as the parsonage belongs to the church proper ty and was built for the minister he The church ought to live in it. not understand your desire to move

out "Do you understand it, Mr. Winter?" Philip put the question point blank. "No. I don't know that I do wholly." Mr. Winter colored and replied in a hes. Itating manner.

"I gave my reasons yesterday morn. ing. do not know that I can make them plainer. The truth is I cannot go on preaching to my people about living on a simpler basis while I continue to live in surroundings that on the face of them contradict my own convictions. In other words, I am living beyond my necessities here. I have lived all my life surrounded by the luxuries of civilization. If now I desire to give these benefits to those who have never en-Joyed them or to know from nearer con tact something of the bitter struggle of the poor, why should I be hindered from putting that desire into practical form?"

"The question is, Mr. Strong," said one of the other trustees, "whether this is the best way to get at it. We do not question your sincerity nor doubt your honesty, but will your leaving the par sonage and living in a less expensive house on half your present salary help your church work or reach more people and save more souls?"

"I am glad you put it in that way, exclaimed Philip, eagerly turning to the speaker. "That is just it, Will my promove result in bringing the posed church and the minister into closer and more vital relations with the people most in need of spiritual and physical uplifting? Out of the depths of my nature I believe it will. The chasm be-tween the church and the people in and expectancy rather than downright

plan of yours? "I suppose," answered Philip after a little pause, "the church will not object to my living in another house at my own charges?

They have no right to compel you to live here." Mr. Winter turned to the r members of the committee. said so at our previous meeting. Gen-tlemen, am I not right in that?"

"It is not a question of our compell-ing Mr. Strong to live here," said one "It is a question of the of the others, church's expecting him to do so. It is the parsonage and the church home for the minister. In my opinion it will cause trouble if Mr. Strong moves out, People will not understand it." "That is my belief, too, Mr. Strong."

said Mr. Winter. "It would be better for you to modify or change or, better still, to abandon this plan. It will not be understood and will cause trouble.

"Suppose the church should rent the parsonage then," suggested Philip. would then be getting a revenue from the property. That, with the thousand dollars on my salary, could be wisely and generously used to relieve much uffering in Milton this winter. The church could easily rent the house.

That was true, as the parsonage stood on one of the most desirable parts of B street and would command

good rental. "Then you persist in this plan of yours, do you, Mr. Srtong?" asked the third member of the committee, who

had for the most part been silent "Yes; I consider that under the cir-cumstances, local and universal, it is my duty. Where I propose to go is a house which I can get for \$8 a month. It is near the tenement district and not so far from the church and this neighborhood that I need be isolated = too much from my church family." Mr. Winter looked serious and per-

plexed. The other trustees looked dissatisfied. It was evident they regard-ed the whole thing with disfavor,

Mr. Winter rose abruptly. He could not avoid a feeling of anger in spite of his obligation to the minister. He also had a vivid recollection of his former nterview with the pastor in study. And yet he struggled with the ague resistance against the feeling that Photo was proposing to do a thing that could result in only one way-of suffering for himself. With all the rest went a suppressed but conscious emotion of wonder that a man would of his own free will give up a luxurious

The matter of reduction of salary, Mr. Strong, will have to come before the church. The trustees cannot vote to acept your proposal. I am very much ristaken if the members of Calvary church will not oppose the reduction. You can see how it would place us in an unfavorable light." tion.

"Not necessarily, Mr. Winter," said hilly eagerly. "If the church will Philip eagerly. "If the church will simply regard it as my own great de-sire and as one of the ways by which we may help forward our work in Milbeing put in a false light. The church does not propose this reduc-It comes from me and in a tin tion. neculiar emergency, both financial social. It is a thing which has and social. been done several times by other min-Isters

That may be. Still, I am positive Calvary church will regard it as unnecessary and will oppose it

"It will not make any difference practically," replied Philip, with , a smile. "I can easily dispose of a thousand dollars where it is needed by oththan by me. But I would ers #1070 prefer that the church would actually pay out the money to them rather than

Mr. Winter and the other trustees looked at Philip in wonder, and with a few words of farewell they left the parsonage.

CHAPTER XIV.

The following week Cavalry church held a meeting held a meeting. It was one of the stormlest meetings ever held by the members. In that meeting Mr. ter again, to the surprise of nearly all, advised caution and defended th minister's action up to a certain point.

At sight of him Philip felt the same thrill of expectancy which had passed over him at his former appearance.

this will belp to solve the prblem?" What problem?"

Why the problem of the church and the people -- winning them, saving them

"Are your church members moving out of their elegant houses and coming down here to live?" The old man asked the question in utmost simplicity. 'No; I did not ask them.'

"You ought to."

"What! Do you believe my people ought literally to leave their possessions and live among the people?" Philip could not help asking the

question, and all the time he was conscious of a strange absurdity, mingled with an unaccountable respect for his visitor and his opinion.

"Yes," came the reply, with the calmness of light. "Christ would de-mand it if He were pastor of Calvary church in this age. The church mem bers, the Christians in this century must renounce all that they have or they cannot be His disciples."

Philip sat profoundly silent. The words spoken so quietly by this creature tossed upon his own soul like a vessel in a tempest. He dared not say anything for a moment. The Brother looked over and said at last "What have you been preaching about since you came here?"

"A great many things. "What are some of the things you

have preached about?" "Well"-Philip clasped his hands over his knees-"I have preached about the right and wrong uses of property, the evil of the saloon, the Sunday as a day of rest and worship, the necessi ty of moving our church building down this neighborhood, the need living on a simpler basis and, lastly the true work of a church in these days.

"Has your church done what you have wished?

replied Philip, with a sigh. 'No. "Will it do what you preach ought to be done?"

don't know." "Why don't you resign?"

The question came with perfect sim-

plicity, but it smote Philip almost like a blow. It was spoken with calmness that hardly rose above a whisper, but it seemed to the listener almost like a The thought of giving up his work simply because his church had not yet done what he wished or be-cause some of his people did not like him was the last thing a man of his nature would do. He looked again at the man and said:

"Would you resign if you were in my place?

"No." It was so quietly spoken that Philip almost doubted if his visitor had replied. Then he said, "What has been done with the parsonage?" "It is empty. The church is waiting

to rent it to some one who expects to move to Milton soon.'

'Are you sorry you came here?"

"No. I am happy in my work." "Do you have enough to eat and wear?

"Yes, indeed. The thousand dollars which the church refused to take off my salary goes to help where most The rest is more than enough neoded. for us.'

"Does your wife think so?" question from any one else had been impertinent. From this man it was not.

"Let us call her in and ask her." replied Philip, with a smile.

"Sarah, the Brother Man wants to know if you have enough to live on."

Sarah came in and sat down. It was dark. The year was turning into the softer months of spring, and all the outdoor world has been a benediction that evening if the sorrow and poverty and sin of the tenement district near had not pervaded the very walls and atmosphere of the entire place. The minister's wife answered brave-ly: "Yes, we have food and place,

and life's necessaries. But, oh, Philip, this life is wearing you out! Yes, Brother Man," she continued, while a tear rolled over her cheek, "the minis-ter is giving his lifeblood for these people, and they do not care. It is a vain sacrifice." She had spoken as frankly as if the old man had been Mr. Winter was evidently embarrage tween the church and the people in and expectancy rather than downright of the bad man stood up and took off frankly as if the old man had been it was the custom in Calvary church his hat. He looked very tired and sor- her father. There was a something for the church committee on new

"Why not?" asked Philip in amazement. "Because he is a negro," replied his

wife Philip stood a moment in silence, with his hat in his hand, looking at his wife as she spoke.

CHAPTER XV.

"Well," said Philip slowly as he

seemed to grasp the meaning of his wife's words, "to tell the truth, I nev-er thought of that!" He sat down and for his own people here. On what pe-sible pretext can the church refue w looked troubled. "Do you think, admit him?" "You do not know some of the men-bers of Calvary church, Mr. Strong f that because he is a negro the church will refuse to receive him to mem-bership? It would not be Christian to refuse him."

very strong prejudice against the me gro in many families. This prejudic is especially strong just at this im-There are other things that are Christian which the church of Christ on earth does not do, Philip," replied his wife almost bitterly. "But whatowing to several acts of depredatiat committed by the negroes living dout ever else Cavalry church may do or not do I am very certain it will never conlieve it would be wise to present its name just now." Deacon Stearns ip sent to admit to membership a black man. peared to speak for the committee il

"But there are so few negroes in Milton that they have no church. I cannot counsel him to unite with his own people. Calvary church must ad-mit him!" Philip spoke with the quiet determination which always marked his convictions when they were set

"But suppose the committee refused to report his name favorably to the church, what then?" Mrs. Strong spoke with a gleam of hope in her heart that Philip would be roused to indignation, that he would resign and leave Milton Philip did not reply at once. He was having an inward struggle with his ensitiveness and his interpretation of his Christ. At last he said:

"I don't know, Sarah, I shall do what I think He would. What I shall do do afterword will also depend on what Christ would do. I cannot decide it yet. I have great faith in the church or carth." on earth And yet what has it done for you

and sometimes we may have to respe so far, Philip? The business men still it in order to avoid greater know families in the church who wa own and rent the saloons and gamcertainly withdraw if the sexion a bling houses. The money spent by the church is all out of proportion to its wealth. Here you give away half your salary to build up the kingdom of voted in as a member. And still," said Christ would receive him into Ha Before much more could be said the God, and more than a dozen men in Calvary who are worth fifty and a hundred thousand dollars give less than a hundredth part of their income different applicants came, and as the custom was, after a brief talk with custom was, after a brief tais them about their purpose in unline to Christian work in connection with the church. It makes my blood boli, with the church and their disciplesh they withdrew, and the to see how you are throwing formally acted on the names for preentation to the church. The name of Henry Roland, the sexton, was final ur life away in these miserable tene ments and wasting your appeals on a ly reported unfavorably, three of the church that plainly does not intend to do, does not want to do, as Christ would have it. And I don't believe it committee voting against it,

Stearns at last voting with the miniter to present the sexton's name with ver will.' 'I'm not so sure of that, Sarah," replied Philip cheerfully. I believe I shall win them yet. The only thing the others. "Now, brethren," said Philip, with sad smile, as they rose to so, you know I have always been very frank is that sometimes troubles me is, Am doing just as Christ would do? An all our relations together, and I am so-An I saying what He would say in this age of the world? There is one thing of which I am certain-I am trying to ing to present the sexton's name to

church Thursday night and church vote on it in spite of the actin here tonight. You know we have only recommending power. The church is the final authority, and it may accept do just as I believe He would. The mistakes I make are those which spring from my failure to interpret His action right. And yet I do feel deep in me that if he was pastor of this church today He would do most of the or reject any names we present. I ca verdict of the church in the matter, "Brother Stream" things I have done. He would preach most of the truths I have proclaimed. Don't you think so, Sarah?" "Brother Strong," said one of committee who had been opposed

the sexton, "you are right as to the t tent of our authority, but there is i don't know, Philip. Yes, I think in most things you have made an honquestion in my mind as to the out est atlempt to interpret Him." "And in the matter of the sexton. of the matter. It is a question s

Sarah wouldn't Christ tell Calvary church that it should admit him to its membership? Would he make any disbe very unwise to receive him membership, and I do not believe church will receive him. If you tipetion of persons? If the man is a Christian, thoroughly converted and wants to be baptized, and unite with sent the name, you do so on your own responsibility." "With mine," said Deacon Stearns. He was the last to shake hands with Christ's body on earth, would Christ, as pastor, refuse him admission?"

'There is a great deal of race preju-dice among the people. If you press the matter, Philip, I feel sure it will the minister, and his warm, stron grasp gave Philip a sense of fellowshi that thrilled him with a sense of o meet with great opposition."

age and companionship ver "That is not the question with me, Would Christ tell Calvary church that study after the committee the man ought to be admitted? That is the question. I believe He would," added Philip, with his sudden grasp of Mrs. Strong, coming up to see him er, found him, as she often did now knees in prayer. Ah, thou followe of Jesus in this century, what but thy practical action. And Mrs. Strong knew that settled it with her husband. (Continued on page twenty-four.)

