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MALCOM KIRK.

A Tale of Moral Heroism in Overcoming the World.

BY CHARLES M. SHELTON,
Author of "In His Steps," "Cruifixion of Philip Strong," "Robert Lardy's Seven Days."

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Illustrations by Herman Meyer.



"Come right in," said the girl. "My one from Hermon is welcome."

wife have revolutionized the moral life of this whole town. When they came here about 20 years ago, they found a community of 1,500 people. A great amount of lawless, thoughtless life crowded the saloons, the dance-houses, the cheap resorts of amusement. Kirk and his wife, after passing through an experience of great suffering and temptation, most of which has always been unknown even to their own people, came out of their affliction with astonishing power over the life of the place. There is no question that the very thinking of the people here is shaped by Malcom Kirk's Christianity. The promise he and his

world, still goes on. Is there a place in the world where a Christian may cease from fighting the good fight of the faith? But I am profoundly touched by the extent of overcoming to be seen in this place. I have been unable to silence the question, "What if every minister as he entered a new place, entered it with a passion like Kirk's to redeem the lost part of it and bring it back to God? I know this much is true of the work done here. There has been no unusual excitement and no extraordinary means employed to produce the astonishing results. There is no question that Kirk has certain qualities that have helped him. His voice is, as it always was, a fine instrument. He knows how to talk to people, and he writes uncommonly well. But, on the other hand, he is still awkward, homely of appearance and by no means always at his best. He loves people. He longs, as Paul did, for the salvation of the world. And there lies the secret of his work. It is nothing which other men may not also have.

"I don't know a minister in our churches anywhere who might not claim all that Malcom Kirk and his wife have claimed. They have over-ruled the world by means of their love, by following the plain path of duty at the cost of suffering, by not pleasing themselves. They are still engaged in the struggle. It will never cease this side of death and paradise. But I wish that every pastor and every church might come here and see what has been done and what the future seems certain to record. The most malignant forces of evil have evidently arrayed themselves against Kirk and his wife, and so far these two have overcome them all. Heaven has won the victory out here, and I do not know why it should not do so everywhere. Do we want the world to be saved? Do we have a passion to save it? Do we put the kingdom first? If we did, should

and purchased a second-hand press outfit for \$500, paying \$55 cash as first payment.

But he had energy and was a good workman, and gave the people a new paper, lived economically, and in the course of a year he paid every dollar that he owed.

On the 22nd of August, 1879, the first issue of the Hampton County Guardian appeared, and it has been published ever since by Mr. McSweeney.



James Taylor McSweeney

you think white silk on a black background would be a warning to Gilbert not to get his coat torn again?" Mrs. Kirk laughed, and before she could answer the bell rang.

Faith put aside the work and went to the door.

"Can I see Mr. Kirk?" asked a voice that Dorothy recognized at once.

"No," said Faith decidedly. "Father is in his study writing, and he ought not to be disturbed."

"But he told me to call today, and I want to see him very much."

"Did he tell you to call this morning?"

"Well—no—he said today. But I couldn't come at any other time."

There was silence a moment while Faith stood holding the door uncertainly, but still resolutely blocking the entrance.

Malcom Kirk came out of his study at the top of the upper hall. "Is that Mr. Barnes, Faith? Tell him to come up."

Faith at once stepped aside, and a shabby looking man came in. As he passed the door of the sitting room he bowed clumsily and said, "Good morning, Mrs. Kirk." Then he stumbled noisily up stairs and entered Malcom's study. The door closed, and Faith went back to her work.

The paper has been well managed and is looked upon today as one of the best in the state. Mr. McSweeney has ever been foremost in everything calculated to help his state, town and county.

He is regarded as one of the best business men in his section, and has been successful in every undertaking. His progressive spirit is seen in different parts of Hampton, and he has developed and improved every lot purchased by him in that town.

The school house in Hampton was built by money loaned to the town by a few citizens. The resolution was offered by Mr. McSweeney at a public meeting and it was unanimously agreed to.

As attendant of the town he afterwards saw every dollar of indebtedness paid. He served for five terms and then declined re-election.

Mr. McSweeney also took a prominent part in building the Methodist and Baptist churches. He not only contributed liberally; but solicited subscriptions in Augusta and Charleston. He is a member of the Methodist church, and contributes liberally to its means to its support.

Mr. McSweeney has always been prominent in politics, and has been three times honored as a delegate to the National Democratic convention.

At the first St. Louis convention in 1888 he voted for Cleveland and Thurman, and at the convention in July, 1896, he voted for Bryan and Sewall. At the Kansas City convention he voted for Bryan and Stevenson.

He served the Democracy of his county for 10 years as county chairman, declining in 1894, when he was elected to the legislature.

He has always taken great interest in the military of his state, and was on the staff of General Stokes and General Moore, with the rank of major and lieutenant colonel. During his service in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on military.

Mr. McSweeney takes keen interest in all educational matters, and was for several years a trustee of the South Carolina college and a member of the board of visitors of the Citadel, and by virtue of his office is chairman of both boards at present.

He is a member of the order of the Knights of Honor and the Knights of Pythias, and has been honored by both organizations.

Mr. McSweeney was a member of the State Democratic Executive committee for a number of years. He was for eight years president of the South Carolina State Press association.

In 1896 he was elected lieutenant-governor by a handsome majority and re-elected in 1898 without opposition, and on the death of Governor Wm. H. Ellerbe, in June, 1899, he took the oath of office of governor and has since discharged the duties of the office with the same business ability that he managed his own private affairs. As president of the senate he presided with fairness and impartiality and to the entire satisfaction of the senators.

His administration as governor has been free from blunders and the office has been conducted on business principles. Even his political enemies have to concede this. He now asks an endorsement of his fellow-citizens by an election to a full term, and justice and fair-dealing which characterize the people of South Carolina demand and will give as much.

STATE CAMPAIGNERS

Plead Their Causes Before Sovereigns of York.

BIG DAY IN YORKVILLE SATURDAY.

Candidates For Governor Discuss Whisky—The Evans' Have Their Usual Quarrel, as Also Do Capers and McMahan, Durham and Booker—Senator Tillman Winds Up the Meeting With a Characteristic Speech.

In point of attendance, the state campaign meeting in Yorkville, last Saturday, broke the record of the present canvass. So say the candidates, and so says Mr. August Kohn, in his report to the News and Courier and Columbia State. There must have been fifteen hundred people present; possibly more. It was a strong reminder of the great meetings of the early nineties; but was unlike them in that there was a noticeable absence of passion and prejudice. In the old days demagoguery was at a premium; but those who tried it last Saturday realized that it was at a discount. If they did not realize the fact it was because their sense of discrimination was less than that of the crowd. Tillman was there, and he evidently saw it. There was no doubt about the fact that he was among his friends. These included many who formerly looked upon him only as a demagogue of the first water; but now recognize him as a statesman of merit and ability. The old hypnotic influence with which he used to sway crowds to his will was lacking. He encountered not the least unfriendliness. There was none to encounter. He could see and feel, however, that while he had full license to say whatever he had a mind to say, and even indulge in his peculiarly affected abuse without danger of exciting serious resentment, his friends collectively and individually, reserved the right to deal with pending questions as their best judgment should dictate. It was not so only with Tillman; but with the other speakers. Taken all in all, it was an ideal meeting, for it included all the conditions required for a complete justification of the rule that makes candidates present their claims to the people from the stump.

In spite of the threatening aspect of the clouds overhead, it was determined to hold the meeting at the baseball park in accordance with previous arrangements, and by 11 o'clock the big grand stand that holds a thousand people, was filled to its utmost capacity. There were a few ladies in the crowd, but not a great many. The speakers occupied an improvised platform, facing the grand stand, within convenient hearing distance, and the arrangement was generally satisfactory all around.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Brice introduced Rev. B. H. Grier, who offered prayer. There was music by the Gold Hill band, and the speaking was opened by the introduction of candidates for railroad commissioner. These candidates are Messrs. B. E. Evans, of Edgefield; W. D. Evans, the present incumbent, of Marlboro; Thomas N. Berry, of Darlington; J. E. Pettigrew, Florence; W. D. Mayfield, of Richland; J. H. Wharton, of Laurens. Each was allowed 10 minutes and they consumed about one hour of time.

There is a lively and bitter quarrel between W. D. Evans and B. E. Evans. B. E. Evans is the aggressor. He began during the first meetings to charge W. D. Evans with incompetency, inefficiency and dishonesty. His charges are ostensibly aimed at the whole commission; but they are made in such a way as to leave no doubt of their being intended especially for W. D. Evans. In reply, W. D. Evans charges B. E. Evans as being a kind of cowardly camp follower who went to the Spanish war, after hostilities were over, in a soft berth, accepted a rotten position in a rotten position under a rotten Republican administration, after which he came back to South Carolina, and imposed upon people with rotten insurance policies, issued in the name of rotten insurance companies. B. E. Evans denounces W. D. Evans's statements as false, and when W. D. Evans produces what he calls sufficient proof, B. E. denounces that as false. B. E. also charges the railroad commission with dereliction of duty and violation of law in allowing the railroads to charge 25 cents excess on fares that have to be collected without tickets. W. D. admits the existence of this custom; but claims that there has been no complaint. B. E. asserts that the railroad conductors have asked the commission to do away with the practice, and W. D. has to admit that such is the fact. It looked several times last Saturday as if the colloquy would lead to a rough and tumble hair pulling match; but as to whether the repeated gentle admonitions of Chairman Brice to the effect that there should be no personalities, averted the crisis, or it's all wind and no thunder anyway, did not develop. Both tried to tell something about South Carolina local rates as compared with the local rates of other states; but each denied what the other had to say and it was very evident that neither made much headway in the matter of getting votes.

Mr. Thomas N. Berry explained that there were seven candidates for one office, and that it was the duty of the people to select the best business man in the crowd. He claimed that honesty, competency and sobriety were the necessary qualifications, and that he had them all. He said that he was a Prohibitionist straight out, and in order to impress his name on the

FROM BOTTOM TO TOP.

How Pluck and Perseverance Conquer Success.

RECORD OF MILES B. MCSWEENEY.

Left an Orphan at an Early Age, a Poor Newsboy Becomes a Printer, Then an Editor, and Then Governor of His State.

MILES B. MCSWEENEY can be truly referred to as a self-made man. He was left fatherless at the age of 4 years, his father dying of yellow fever in Charleston.

Young McSweeney's struggles for a livelihood began before he reached his 10th year. He sold newspapers and clerked in a book store. While clerk he attended a night school, and became very fond of reading and writing.

While in the book store he met Mr. Augustine Ford, a member of a company that had begun the publication of a paper known as The Gazette. This was in 1867.

McSweeney afterwards worked for Burke & Ford, job printers. From there he went to Edward Perry's, where he completed his apprenticeship as a job printer. At this time Washington and Lee university, of Lexington, Va., had offered a scholarship to the Charleston Typographical Union, which was to be awarded to the most deserving of the young men then employed in Charleston printing offices. By a majority of votes of members of the union, young McSweeney was chosen and the scholarship given to him.

On account of the lack of means, he found that he could not pay for his board and clothing, and was obliged, after spending a part of the session, to give up his desire for a collegiate education. Like all good types at that time, he was a union printer, and served Columbia Typographical Union as corresponding secretary and afterwards as president.

He was among the first to sign the roll for re-organization of the Phoenix Hook and Ladder company, of Columbia, and served as secretary of the company for a number of years.

Mr. McSweeney's record as a Democrat is well known, and he did faithful work for his party in 1876.

Mr. McSweeney moved to Ninety-Six, in Abbeville county, and commenced the publication of the Ninety-Six Guardian. This was his first business venture. He had a capital of \$65,



PRINCE TUAN, THE CHINESE USURPER, AND THE BRITISH LEGATION, PEKING.

but she is one of the most interesting individual girls I ever read.

"He had been called out of town on the afternoon of that day to see a young man who died of the effects of a drunken debauch, and as he came back to Conrad in the evening his wife was kneeling in the center of a group of other women, holding a prayer meeting in front of one of the most notorious saloons then in Conrad.

"He had only just come to the place when a great disturbance broke out in the saloon behind him. Some one broke through the crowd and attempted to throw a bottle of vitriol at Mrs. Kirk. It was afterward shown that the man was crazy with drink and awfully excited by the events of the day. He was only partly successful in his horrible attempt. Mrs. Kirk's face was burned on one side, but a man of the name of Carver, who had been drinking, but was sober enough to realize what was going on, grappled with the other and took away the bottle, receiving dreadful burns in doing so. This man is now the sexton in Mr. Kirk's church, a devout, sincere Christian and a good example, so Kirk says, of hundreds of men who will remain sober if the saloon is taken away and the constant temptation to drink is absent. And so far as I can observe he is decidedly right in his belief.

"Well, Mrs. Kirk has recovered from those injuries, and her beauty of face, which is still remarkable, is marred only by a scar which gives her, to all who know her history, an added interest. The affair created an intense feeling here for a long time. Nothing so terrible had been known since that attempt to disfigure Mrs. Coleman of Marvite, Canada, while marching with other women in a temperance procession. The event opened many people's eyes to the satanic power of the drink evil. It was only one out of countless events where the whisky element has stood for the greatest crimes and for which it must answer heavily at the

judgment bar of a long suffering God.

"It is difficult for me to write of Malcom Kirk without seeming to exaggerate and overemphasize his work. I want to speak of his beautiful family, which is a part of the best part of this western town.

"Mrs. Kirk has developed into a woman of rare power in all the church and social life of the place. Years ago the women here recognized her ability as a leader by making her president of the Christian Temperance union. It was largely through her efforts that the township polled a very heavy vote for the amendment. She has thrown all her rare talents as a gifted musician also into the redemption of the town, with the result that no woman has such an influence as she has on all the young, thoughtless life that has crowded in here during the town's rapid growth in the years of eighty-six and seven.

"There are three children, two boys, named Gilbert and Hermon, and a girl, the oldest child, named Faith. The boys are bright, handsome fellows and take after the mother. Gilbert is 17 and Hermon 15. Faith, who is nearly 19, is like her father. I have not yet been able to tell whether she is what you women would call 'pretty' or not.

we not see the results everywhere that we see here? I shall return home from my visit to Malcom Kirk with that question sounding in my heart."

There was one brief allusion in this letter which meant even more than Wilson knew. It was his allusion to what he called Malcom Kirk's "peculiar habits of generosity." Indirectly these led to events which have to do with this history of the human conflict against sin and involved in that growing conflict all the members of Kirk's family.

A few days after Wilson's departure Faith and her mother were sitting together in the "common room," as Faith called it, the room that the family used for dining and sitting room together. Dorothy was sewing, and Faith was helping her with some work on the boys' suits.

It was about 11 o'clock in the morning, and Malcom Kirk was up-stairs in his study. The boys were at school, and Faith, who had finished the high school, had been staying at home for two years helping her mother.

"Mother, how does Gilbert manage to tear his coat across the back like that?" asked Faith, holding up that garment and looking at it with grave astonishment.

Dorothy could not help smiling, although the next instant she sighed a little.

"He said one of the boys pushed him against a wire fence last Saturday while they were out fishing near 'The Forks.'"

"Well, the boy that did it ought to be made to wear it after I have mended it. That would be making the punish-

(Continued on Second Page.)