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Sunday School every Sunday at 9.45 a. m.—C. B. Irwin, Superintendent.

Graham Christian Church—N. Main Street—Rev. J. F. Truitt. Preaching services every Sec-end and Fourth Sundays, at 11,00

a. m. Sunday School every Sunday at 10.00 a. m.—E. L. Henderson, Superintendent.

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-North Main Street, near DepotRev. J. G. Truitt, Pastor. Preaching every Second and Fourth Sunday nights at 8.00 o'clock. Sunday School every Sunday at 9.46 a. m.—J. A. Bayliff, Superintendent.
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CHAPTER I—Sheridan's attempt to make a business man of his son Bibbs by starting him in the machine shop ends in Bibbs going to a sanitarium, a nervous wreck.

CHAPTER II—On his return Bibbs met at the station by bis sister Edith. CHAPTER III—He finds himself an in-considerable and unconsidered figure in the "New House" of the Sheridans. He sees Mary Vertrees looking at him from a summer house next door.

CHAPTER IV-The Vertre ses, old to

CHAPTER V—At the Sheridan house warming banquet Sheridan spreads him self. Mary frankly encourages Jim Sheridan's attention, and Bibbs hears he is to se sent back to the machine shop.

CHAPTER VI-Mary tells her mothe about the banquet and shocks her mother er by talking of Jim as a matrimonis possibility.

CHAPTER VII—Jim tells Mary Bib s not a lunatic—"just queer." He process to Mary, who half accepts him. CHAPTER VIII-Sheridan tells Bib

CHAPTER IX—Edith and Sibyl, Roscot Sheridan's wife, quarrel over Bobby Lam-horn; Sybli goes to Mary for help to keep Lamhorn from marrying Edith, and Mary leaves her in the room alone.

CHAPTER X—Bibbs has to break to its father the news of Jim's sudden death CHAPTER XI—All the rest of the fam-ity halpless in their grief, libbs becomes ty major of the house. At the funeral he meets Mary and rides home with her.

CHAPTER XII—Mrs. Sheridan plead with Bibbs to return to the machine she for his father's sake, and he consents. CHAPTER XIII—Bibbs purposely inter rupts a tete-a-tete between Edith an Lamhorn. He tells Edith that he over heard Lamhorn making love to Roscoe' wife.

CHAPTER XIV—Mutual love of musi arouses an intimate friendship between Bibbs and Mary.

CHAPTER XV-Mary sells her plano help out the finances of the Vertrees far CHAPTER XVI-Roscoe and his will

CHAPTER XVII—Sheridan finds Ros one in an intoxicated condition during of ice hours and takes him home. CHAPTER XVIII—Friendship betwee Bibbs and Mary ripens into a more intu-mate relation, and under Mary's infu-since Bibbs decides to return to the ma-chine shop.

CHAPTER XIX—Sheridan finds his sor Roscoe's affairs in a muddled condition, twing to his intemperate habits.

CHAPTER EX-Bibbs, under the inspiration of Mary's frieniship, makes good in the machine shop. Sheridan is injured while attempting to show the boy how to do his work.

CHAPTER XXI.—Sibyl, insanely jealous over Lamhorn's attentions to Edith, makes a scene in the Sheridan home, and Lamhorn is ordered out of the house by Sheridan.

CHAPTER XXII—Bibbs finds great

CHAPTER XXIII—Edith leaves for New York, estensibly to visit a friend. Roscoe tells his father that he is going to quit the business and go away with his wire.

CHAPTER XXIV—Sheridan announces that he is going to take Bibbs into the office with him and make a business man

### CHAPTER XXX.

Sibyl and Roscoe were upon the point of leaving when Bibbs returne point of leaving when shows returned to the new house. He went straight to Sibyl and spoke to her quietly, but so that the others might hear.

"When you said that if I'd stop to think, I'd realize that no one would be

think, I'd realize that no one would be apt to care enough about me to marry me, you were right," he said. "I thought perhaps you weren't, and so I asked Miss Vertrees to marry me. It proved what you said of me, and disproved what you said of her. She refused."

And, having thus spoken, he quitted the room as straightforwardly as he

"He's so queer!" Mrs. Sheridan gasped. "Who on earth would thought of his doln' that?"
"I told you," said her husband.

"You didn't tell us he'd go over "I told you she wouldn't have him

I told you she wouldn't have Jim, didn't 1?"
Sibyl was altogether taken aback.
"Do you suppose it's true? Do you suppose she wouldn't?"
"He didn't look exactly like a young

man that had just got things fixed up fine with his girl," said Sheridan. "Not to me, he didn't!" "But why would-"

"I told you," he interrupted, angrily she ain't that kind of a giril It you "she sin't that kind of a girli If you got to have proof, well, I'll tell you and get it over with, though I'd nestly near just as soon not have to talk a whole lot about my dead boy's private affairs. She wrote to Jim she couldn't take him, and it was a good, straight letter, too. It came to Jim's office; he never saw it. She wrote it the afternoon he was hurt."

"I remember I saw her put a letter."

membered. And she was not cast down, theless audible—"if you knew she for, although some remnants of per- wouldn't have Jim, either." plexity were left in her eyes, they were And he stamped his way downstairs

dimmed by an increasing glow of

injury had been copiously avenged. She bestowed a contented glance upon the old house with the cupola, as she and

to accuse you of that. I don't know have any care to accuse you of that. I don't know have any considered any constant, though the Lord you said, exactly, though the Lord opinion which had apparently been the knows you've laid down on me enough.

You certainly have!" Sheridan was "I'd like you to understand just knows you've laid down on me enough. You certainly have!" Sheridan was shaffled. This was not what he wished to say, but his words were unmanagerable; he found himself unable to control them, and his querulous abuse went on in spite of him. "I can't say I expect much of you—not from the way you always been, up to now—unless you turn over a new leaf, and I don't see any encouragement to think you're goin' to do that! If you go down there and show a spark o' real git-up, I fall in a faint. But if you're ever goin' to show any, you better begin right at the beginning and begin to show it to

bewitched. He had come to tell Bibbs as quickly as we can, a about Mary's letter, and to his own angry astonishment he found it important type." ossible to do anything except to scold like a drudge-driver.

come down there with your mind made up to hustle harder than the hardest workin man that's under you, or you'll not get on very good with me. I tell you! The way to get ahead—and you better set it down in your books-the



You Don't Know What Work Is, Yet way to get ahead is to do ten times the work of the hardest worker that works for you. But you don't know what work is, yet. All you've ever done was just stand around and feed a machine a child could handle, and then come home and take a bath and go callin'. I tell you you're up against mighty different proposition now, and if you're worth your salt-and you never showed any signs of it yet—not any signs that stuck out enough to bang somebody on the head and make 'em sit up and take notice—well, I want to say, right here and now-and you better listen, because I want to may just what I do say. I say—" He meandered to a full stop. His mouth hung open, and his mind was a

Bibbs looked up patiently—an old. old look. "Yes, father; I'm listening." "That's all," said Sheridan, frowning heavily. "That's all I came to say, and you better see 't yes remember it!" He shook his head warningly, and went out, closing the door behind him fairs. She wrote to Jim she couldn't went out, closing the door behind him take him, and it was a good, straight with a crash. However, no sound of letter, too. It came to Jim's office; he never saw it. She wrote it the after noon he was hurt."

"I remember I saw her put a letter in the mail box that afternoon," said hibted to his son a forehead liberally covered with perspiration.

I told you about it—I was waiting for "Look here," he said, crossly. "That say white you were in these so long eight over yonder word I im a letter—"

you will sou were in there so long girl over yonder wrote Jim's aletter—" atking to her mother. It was just before we saw that something was wrong over here, and Edith came and called me." "Well, I thought you needn't feel so much upset about it—" The door closed on his voice as he withdisw, but the conclusion of the sentence was never-

to tell his wife to quit her frettin' and not bother him with any more fool's errands. She was about to finquire what Bibbs "said," but after a second thought she decided not to speak at all. She merely murmured a wordless as-sent, and verbal communication was given over between them for the rest of the afternoon. the afternoon.

of the afternoon.

Bibbs and his father were gone when Mrs. Sheridan woke, the next morning, and she had a dreary day. She missed Edith weefully, and she worsted about what might be taking place in the Sheridan building. She felt that everything depended on how Bibbs "took hold," and upon her husband's return the tearth and the feather the hold," and upon her husband's return in the evening she seized upon the first opportunity to ask him how things had gone. He was noncommittal. What could anybody tell by the first day? He'd seen plenty go at things well enough right at the start and then blow up. Pretty near anybody could show up fair the first day or se. There-was a big top shead. This materials dimmed by an increasing glow of show up fair the next cay or so. There triumph; and she departed—after some further fragmentary discourse—visibly elated. After all, the guilty had not been exalted; and she perceived vague. Roscoe had done; and then, at least as an overseer, he must take Jim's position in the Realty company as well. He told here with the curple as the and month.

But during the course of dinner she Roscoe crossed the street.

When they had gone, Mrs. Sheridan indulged in reverle, but after a while she said, uneasily, "Papa, you think it would be any use to tell Bibbs about that letter?"

"I don't know," he answered, walking moodlly to the window. "I been thinkin' about it." He came to a decision. "I reckon I will." And he went twatter reading his paper.

She became an anxieus spectator of

up to Bibbs' room.

"Well, you goin' back on what you said?" he inquired, brusquely, as he opened the door. "You goin' to take it back and lay down on me again?"

"No," said Bibbs.

"Well, perhaps I didn't have any call to secuse you of that. I don't know but on the first swaning of the third."

show any, you better begin right at the beginning and begin to show it to morrow."

"You can't have it," said Blbbs.
"You can't, because Jim planned for the building to stand up, and it won't do it. The other one—the one that always been able to say whatever he wished to say, but his tongue seemed bewitched. He had come to tell Bibbs about Mary's-letter, and to his own angry astonishment he found it imports on that twee."

Sheridan looked sarcastic. "F What we goin' to do for storage ro while we're waitin' for those few bricks to be laid?"

"We'll lose money if we don't ren anyhow-they were waiting so long for got piled up on us over there. We'd have to rent until we could patch up those process perils—and the Krivitch Manufacturing company's plant is empty, right across the street. I took an option on it for us this morning."

Sheridan's expression was queer.
"Look here!" he said, sharply. "Did
you go and do that without consulting

"It didn't cost anything," said Bibbs "It's only until tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock. I undertook to convince you before then. "Oh, you did?" Sheridan's tone was rdonic. "Well, just suppose you

ouldn't convince me." "I can, though—and I intend to," said Bibbs, quietly. "I don't think you understand the condition of those

buildings you want patched up."

Bibbs looked at him compassionateiy. "I'm sorry if you have a sentiment about it, father," he said. "But
whether you have or not can't make
a difference. You'll get other people
hurt if you trust that process, and that
won't do. And if you want a morument to Jim, at least you want onethat will stand. Besides, I don't think
you can reasonably defend sentiment
to this nexticular kind of affair." in this particular kind of affair."
"Oh, you don't?"
"No, but &'m sorry you didn't tell me

you felt it."

Sheridan was puzzled by his son's ne. "Why are you 'sorry'?" he asked, curiously:
"Because I had the building inspec-

"He'd been afraid to do it before, until he heard from us—afraid you'd see he ost his job. But he can't uncondemn them-they've got to come down now."

ing stare from beneath lowered brows. Finally he said, "How long did they give you on that option to convince

"Until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon."
"All right," said Sheridan, not re-

this evening."



"They've Got to Come Down Now."

"Startin'? Lord! He got me on the hip! Why, he knew what I wanted— that's why he had the inspector up there, so 't he'd have me beat before we even started to talk about it. And did you hear him? 'Can't reasonably defend sentiment!' And the way he say 'Us.' 'Took an option for Us!' 'Stuff piled up on Us!'

There was always an alloy for Mrs. Sheridan. "I don't just like the way be looks, though, papa."

"Oh, there's got to be something!
Only one chick left at home, so you start to frettin' about it!"
"No. He's changed. There's a kind of a settish look to his face, and—" "I guess that's the common sense min' out on him, then," said Sheridan, "You'll see symptoms like that in a good many business men, I ex-

"Well, and he don't have as goo olor as he was gettin' before. And e'd begin to fill out some, but—"

Sheridan gave forth another dry chuckle, and, going round the table to her, patted her upon the shoulder with his left hand, his right being stil heavily bandaged, though he no longer wore a sling. "That's the way it is with you, mamma—got to take your frettin' out one way if you don't an-"No. He don't look well. It sin't

exactly the way he looked when he begun to get sick that time, but he kind o' seems to be losin', some way." "Yes, he may 'a' lost something, said Sheridan. "I expect he's lost i whole lot o' foolishness besides hi Godforsaken notions about writin

his wife persisted. "I mean "No," his wife persisted. "I mean he looks right peakid. And yesterday, when he was settin with us, he kept lookin out the window. He wasn't

"He was lookin' over there. He never read a word all afternoon, I don't believe."

"Look here!" said Sheridan. "Bibbs might 'a' kept goin' on over there the rest of his life, moonin' on and on, but what he heard Sibyl say did one big thing, anyway. It woke him up out of his trance. Well, he had to go and of his trance. bust clean out with a bang; and that stopped his goin' over there, and it stopped his poetry, but I reckon he's stopped his poerry, out I recken he's begun to get pretty fair pay for what he lost. I guess a good many young men have had to get over worries like his; they got to lose something if they're goin' to keep ahead o' the procession nowadays-and it kind o' looks to me, mamma, like Bibbs might keep quite a considerable long way ahead. "Now, see here," said Sheridan, with slow emphasis: "Suppose I had my mind set about this. Jim thought they'd stand, and suppose I was—well, kind of a matter of sentiment with me to prove he was right."

Bibbs looked at him compassionate the suppose it was a sant.

occupied the other way these days. Yes, sir, it took a pretty fair-sized shock to get him out of his trance, but it certainly did the business." He patted his wife's shoulder again, and then, without any prefatory symptoms, broke into a bolsterous laugh.

"Honest, mamma, he works like gorilla!

### CHAPTER XXXI.

And so Bibbs sat in the porch of the temple with the money changers. But he One came to scourge him forth, for this was the temple of Bigness, and the changing of money was holy wor-ship and true religion. The priests wore that "settish" look Bibbs' mother had seen beginning to develop about his mouth and eyes a wary look which she could not define, but it comes with service at the temple; and it was the more marked upon Bibbs for his sharp awakening to the necessities of that service.

He did as little "useless" thinking as possible, giving himself no time for it. He worked continuously, keeping his thoughts still on his work when he came home at night, and he talked of nothing whatever except his work. But he did not sing at it. He was All right, and Sherican, not relaring. "I'm convinced."

Bibbs jumped up. "I thought you mot allowed to sing in the streets. They might make any manner of hideous uproar—they could enthunder the thuntomorrow, but I told him I'd settle it often in the streets, and people were this evening."

Sheridan gazed after him as he left streets or drive through them bawling, the room, and then, though his expression did not alter in the slightest, a sound came from him that startled his wife. It had been a long time since she had heard anything resembling a chuckle from him, and this sound—although it was grim and dry—bore that She brightened eagerly. "Looks like Neapolitan—would have been stopped, and belike locked up; for freedom does

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not mean that a citizen is allowed to do every outrageous thing that comes into his head. The streets were dan-gerous enough, in all conscience, with-out any singing! and the Motor federation issued public warnings declaring that the pedestrian's life was in his own hands, and giving directions how to proceed with the least peril. How-ever, Bibbs Sheridan had no desire to sing in the streets, or anywhere. He had gone to his work with an energy that, for the start, at least, was bitter, and there was no song left in him.

He began to know his active fellow

citizens. Here and there among them he found a leisurely, kind soul, a relic of the old period of neighborliness, "ploneer stock," usually; and there were men—particularly among the merchants and manufacturers—'so honest they leaned shackward;" reputations sometimes attested by stories of barries aggrificent to hence the support of the stories of th of heroic sacrifices to honor; nor were there lacking some instances of gen-erosity even nobler. Here and there, too, were bookmen, in their little leisure; and, among the Germans, music men. And these, with the others, wor-shiped Bigness and the growth, each man serving for his own sake and for what he could get out of it, but all united in their faith in the beneficence and glory of their god.

To almost all alike that service stood as the most important thing in life, ex-cept on occasion of some such vital. brief interregnum as the dangerous illmess of a wife or child. In the way of "relaxation" some of the servers took golf; some took fishing; some took shows"-a mixture of infantile and sic; some took an occasional debauch; some took trips; some took cards; and some took nothing. The high priests vere vigilant to watch that no "relaxation" should affect the service. When a man attended to anything outside his business, eyes were upon him; his credit was in danger—that is, his life was in danger. And the old priests was in danger. And the old priests were as ardent as the young ones; the million was as eager to be bigger as the thousand; seventy was as busy as seventeen. They strove mightly against one another, and the old priests vere the most wary, the most plaus ible and the most dangerous learned he must walk charily a these—he must wear a thousand and beware of spiders indeed!

And outside the temple itself were the pretenders, the swarming thieves and sharpers and fleecers, the sly rascals and the open rascals; but these were feeble folk, not dangerous once he knew them, and he had a good guide to point them out to him. They were useful sometimes, he learned, and many of them served as go-betweens in matters where business must touch olitics. He learned also how brev orles and "traction" companies and banks and other institutions fought one another for the political control of the city. The newspapers, he discovered, had lost their ancient political in fluence, especially with the knowing who looked upon them with a skep tical humor, believing the journals either to be retained partisans, like lawyers, or else striving to forward the personal ambitions of their owners. The control of the city lay not with them, but was usually obtained by giving the "floating voters" gin mo and by other largesses. The revenues of the people were then distributed as fairly as possible among a great num ber of men who had assisted the win-ning side. Names and titles of of-fices went with many of the prizes, and most of these title holders were expected to present a busy appearance at times; and, indeed, some among hem did work honestly and faithfully.
Bibbs had been very ignorant. All these simple things, so well known and customary, astonished him at first, and

once—in a brief moment of forgetting that he was done with writing—he thought that if he had known them and written of them, how like a satire the plainest relation of them must have seemed! Strangest of all to him was the vehement and sincere patriotism. On every side he heard it: it was a permeation; the newest schoolchild caught it, though just from Hungary of the local language. Everywhere the people shouted of the power, the size, the riches and the growth of their city. Not only that, they said that the people of their city were the greatest, the "finest," the strongest, the Biggest

people on earth. They cited no authorities, and felt the need of none

'That Stuff's Deader'n Adam's Cati being themselves the people thus celbrated. And if the thing was ques-tioned, or if it was hinted that there might be one small virtue in which they were not perfect and supreme, they wasted no time examining them-selves to see if what the critic said was true, but fell upon him and hoot ed him and cursed him, for they were

ways and walking with them, heark-ened to the voice of the people and served Bigness with them. For the voice of the people is the voice of their

Sheridan had made the room next to his own into an office for Bibbs, and the door between the two rooms usually stood open—the, father had established that intimacy. One morning in February, when Bibbs was alone, Sheridan came in, some sheets of typewritten memoranda in his hand.

"Bibbs," he said, "I don't like to butt in very often this way, and when I do I usually wish I hadn't—but for heav-en's sake what have you been buying that ole busted inter-traction stock

Bibbs leaned back from his desk.

"For eleven hundred and fifty-five dol-lars. That's all it cost."
"Well, it ain't worth eleven hundred and fifty-five cents. You ought to know that. I don't get your idea. That stuff's deader'n Adam's cat!"

"It mightn't be so dead-not if We went into it," said Bibbs coolly. "Oh!" Sheridan considered this mus-ingly; then he said, "Who'd you buy it

"A broker-Fansmith." "Well, he must 'a' got it from one o' the crowd o' poor ninnies that was soaked with it. Don't you know who

whed it?"
"Yes, I do."
"Ain't sayin', though? That it? What's the matter?" "It belonged to Mr. Vertrees," said Bibbs, shortly, applying himself to his

desk. "So!" Sheridan gazed down at his son's thin face. "Excuse me," he said:
"Your business." And he went back
to his own room. But presently he
looked in agrin.

looked in agrin,
"I reckon you won't mind lunchin'
alone today"—he was shuffling himself
into his overcoat—"because I just
thought I'd go up to the house and get this over with mamma." glanced apologetically toward his right hand as it emerged from the sleeve of the overcoat. The bandages had been removed, finally, that morning, revealing but three fingers-the forefinger and the next to it had been amputated. "She's bound to make ar awful fuss, and it better spoil her lunch than her dinner. I'll be back about two."

But he calculated the time of his arrival at the new house so accurately that Mrs. Sheridan's lunch was not dis turbed, and she was rising from the lonely table when he came into the lining room. He had left his overcoat in the hall, but he kept his hands in

in the hall, but he kept his hands in his trousers pockets.

"What's the matter, papa?" she asked, quickly. "Has anything gone wrong? You affit sick?"

"Me!" He laughed loudly. "Me

"You had lunch?"
"Didn't want any today. You can give me a cup o' coffee, though."

She rang, and told George to have coffee made, and when he had withdrawn she said querulously, "I just know there's something wrong."

"Nothin' in the world," he respond-

ed, heartily, taking a seat at the head of the table. "I thought I'd talk over a notion o' mine with you, that's all

It's more women-folks' business that what it is man's, anyhow."
"What about?"
"Why, ole Doc Gurney was up at the

office this morning awhile—"
"To look at your hand? How's he say it's doin'?"

"Fine! Well, he went in and sat

Mrs. Sheridan nodded pessimistically.
I guess it's time you had him, too.

#### TO BE CONTINUED. SIGNS OF THE TIME.

One of the important indications pointing to a general awakening in the direction of fire protection and prevention was the recent action of more extensive use of automatic sprinklers and urging the passage of sprinklers and urging the passage of ordiances requiring automatic sprinklers to be installed in buildings where conditions favor the inception and spread of fire, especially where the safety of life is menaced. The resolutions of the fire chiefs included the appointment of committees "to consider the compulsory requireconsider the compulsory require-ments fo rinstallations of automatic sprinkler systems and to investigate ways and means whereby automatic sprinkler systems may be used to best advantage by fire departments as fire defense auxiliaries." the work of fire protection and pre

### LIFE HAZARD.

The Indiana fire marshal receives reports of deaths by fire, and these reports show that during the year 50 adults and 21 children, a total of 71 persons, lost their lives. Gasoline explosions were responsible for a to tal of 15 deaths; kerosene explosions for 17: clothing in contact with fire. 17: lodging and dwelling house fires s; children playing with matches, 4; and the reat scattering. It is noteworthy that the list shows that three adults committed suicide by fire and that the specific cause of one death was unknown. This last item indi-cates that much more care is eer-cised in discovering the specific cause of fire when it causes loss of life

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J. M. Rhodes, Littleton, N.C. Sheriff's Notice to Owner of Captured

Automobile to Come Forward

and Claim Same. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Sher ff of Alamance county, on 23rd day of August, 1916, eized a quantity of spirituous liquors nd at the same time captured an automobile used in conveying said liquors, said automobile being de-

cribed as follows: One 5-pass Ford automobile.

Pursuant to Chap. 197, Sec. 2, Pursuant to Chap. 197, See. M. Pub. Laws, 1915, the owner of said automobile is hereby requested to come forward and institute proper roceedings to secure possess aid automobile, otherwise same will be advertised and sold according to law. This Sept. 23, 1916. R. N. COOK, Sheriff.

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