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ROBERT HARDY'S SEVEN DAYS.

A DREAM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

BY REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON,
Author of "In His Steps," "The Crucifixion of Philip Strong," "Malcom Kirk," Etc.

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CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

In the pause that roused James Caxton, who had been sitting in the back seat, felt as if some power within and without him were forcing him to his feet. He grasped his chair as if to hold himself down, but the Holy Spirit whispered to him, "Son, this will be the beginning of a new life to thee."

And so James Caxton arose and said he wanted to be a Christian, and from that moment he dated his strong, consecrated life, a life that bids fair to become famous in the world yet, and his action was the beginning of a new life in that church and community, but we cannot dwell on that in the course of this history.

Oh, Robert Hardy, the good God is blessing thee in this thy week of trial! For was it not thy word that first started this young, manly soul to consider what he owed to Jesus the Christ?

To come back to Robert. He had written the note, beginning it just a little after the bell ceased ringing, and as he finished James had come over to see if he could be of any service. The church was near by, and Mr. Hardy asked him to take the note over. He went over to the church, with the result described. He did not come back at once, and Mr. Hardy watched on with Alice.

Will sleep irregularly, being troubled with his dreams of the accident. Mrs. Hardy woke and begged her husband to lie down and get a little rest. He did so, but was aroused about 10 o'clock by the doctor coming in. He had just finished a visit near by. He saw the light and was anxious, as the case was an extraordinary one, to come in. He examined Clara's face very keenly and then sat down by the bed for an instant. After giving certain medicines he found that he was in need of another article, which was at his house.

"I will go and get it, doctor. It's not far, and I think a little fresh air will do me good and help me to remain awake better," said Robert.

He went down stairs, and the doctor followed him as he went out into the hall and hung on his overcoat. Mr. Hardy turned before he opened the door.

"Doctor, tell me the truth about my girl? What is her condition?"

"It is serious, but more than that I cannot say. There is a possibility that by means of a slight operation the disastrous consequences of the shock to her eyes may be averted, and it is possible that the other results which I hinted may be altogether different. It is not in medical power to decide with certainty."

So Mr. Hardy went out into the night with a glimmer of hope in his breast. It was snowing again, and a strong wind was blowing, so he buttoned his big coat close up, drew his hat down over his brows and, leaning forward, walked as rapidly as he could against the wind in the direction of the doctor's house. The streets were almost deserted. The lights at the corners flickered and showed pale through the lamps.

As he turned down a narrow street, intending to make a short cut across a park that lay near the doctor's, he was suddenly seized by three or four young men, and one of them said in a tone which betrayed a drunken debauch.

"Hold up your hands and deliver! You've got plenty of chink, and we haven't! So no squalling, or we'll shoot you for it!"

Mr. Hardy was taken completely by surprise. But he was a vigorous, athletic man, and his first impulse was to shake himself loose, to knock down two of his assailants next to him and make a run for it. His next glance, however, showed him the nature of the group of young men. They were not professional robbers, but young men about town who had been drinking late and were evidently out on a lark and were holding him up just for fun.

Mr. Hardy guessed exactly right. What could he do? Two of the young men were known to him, the sons of the Bramleys, who were well to do people in Barton. Mr. Hardy's next impulse was to discover himself to them and beg them to quit such dangerous fooling and go home. The three other young men were in shadow, and he could not tell them. All this passed through his thought with a flash. But before he had time to do anything a police officer sprang out of a doorway near by, and the group of young men, dropping their hold of Mr. Hardy, fled in different directions.

The officer made pursuit and after a short run captured one of the young men, whom, after vigorous resistance, he dragged back to where Mr. Hardy stood, exclaiming:

"Here's one of the rascals, sir. I heard 'em when they held you up. We're been looking for this gang some time now. Just identify this one if he is the one that just now grabbed you, sir."

Under the light of the lamp the policeman dragged the form of his vic-

tim and roughly struck up his hat. At that instant Mr. Hardy looked into his face and cried out:

"George! Is it you?"

And the son replied as he started back:

"Father!"

The two looked at each other in silence, while the snow fell in whirling flakes about them.

And this was the end of Robert Hardy's third day.

CHAPTER IX.

Mr. Hardy looked at his son sternly, standing at the little distance off he had recoiled after that first recognition of the boy. It would be difficult to describe his emotions. He had never been an affectionate father to his boys. He had generally given them money when they asked for it and had not questioned them about its use.

He was not familiar with his older son's habits and only within the last few days had he known that he was what the age popularly designates as "fast." He had never made a companion of his son. He had not grown up with him, so that now as he faced him under the strange circumstances that had brought them together he was actually at a loss to know what to do or say.

The thought that his son was guilty of a crime which might put him behind prison bars did not yet occur to his mind. He was only conscious of a great longing to get back home and there have a thorough talk with his boy in the hope of winning him to better things. But he must say something to George.

The police officer stared in wonder after the first startled cry of "Father!" on the part of the young man, but he did not loosen his hold on him. He took an extra twist in the coat collar of his captive and looked sharply at Mr. Hardy as much as to say, "He may be your son, but he's my victim, and I mean to keep a good clutch on him."

George was the first to speak:

"Father, you know I wouldn't do such a thing really. We were only out for a little fun. We didn't know you, of course. We didn't mean any real harm. We were only fooling."

"It was dangerous fooling," replied his father.

He still stood apart from the boy and spoke quietly, but his face was pale, and his heart was wrung with torture for his firstborn.

Al, how careless of him he had been! How little companionship the two had had! How very little help the boy had received from the man!

Now, believing that only four more days lay before him to use to the glory of God, Robert Hardy felt the sting of that bitterest of all later feelings, useless regret, the regret that does not carry with it any hope of redeeming a self-lost past.

After his father had spoken George suddenly remained silent. Mr. Hardy bowed his head and seemed thinking. The officer, who had been waiting for another move on the part of the older man, said:

"Well, we must be moving on. It's warmer in the lockup than out here. So come along, young fellow, and do your talking tomorrow morning with the rest of the drunks and disorderlies."

"Stop!" cried Robert Hardy. "This is my son! Do you understand? What are you going to do?"

"Well, governor, that's a pretty question at this time of day. Do! I'm going to jug him for assault with intent to commit highway robbery. It's an affair for the pen. I can tell you."

"But you heard him say it was all a joke."

"A pretty joke to try to hold a man up on the highway and demand his money! Oh, no! That's carrying a joke too far. I'm bound to obey orders. We've been after this gang of young chaps for a month now."

"But, officer, you don't understand! This is my son!"

"Well, what of that? Don't we jug sons every day for some devilry or other? Do you suppose you are the only father whose son is going to the devil?"

"O God, no!" cried Mr. Hardy, with sudden passion. "But this is my older boy. It would kill his mother to have him arrested and put in jail for trying to rob his own father. Yet he was once innocent—What am I saying? He might be now if I had done my duty."

(To be continued.)

JUDGES OF ELECTION.

The county board of elections met yesterday afternoon, when the following judges of election were appointed to fill vacancies:

Asheville No. 2—S. F. Chapman.
Asheville No. 3—J. W. Raymond.
Asheville No. 5—M. W. Lyerly.
Avery's Creek—Z. T. Ledbetter.
Biltmore No. 1—J. R. Lambert.
Black Mountain—T. K. Brown.
Haw Creek—Frank Reed.
Leicester—No. 2—John Hayes.
Leicester No. 3—Edward Little.
Lower Hominy—Lee Thrash.
Reems Creek No. 2—J. G. Barrett.

Notice.

State of North Carolina, Buncombe County.

M. W. Cooper vs. A. D. Cooper—Notice of Execution Sale.

By virtue of two executions placed in my hands for collection, issued, one out of the Superior court of Iredell county and the other out of the Superior court of Buncombe county, the said two judgments being duly docketed in the office of the clerk of the Superior court of Buncombe county, and to satisfy said executions, I will on

WEDNESDAY, THE 15TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1900,

it being the third day of the August term, 1900, of the Superior court of Buncombe county, at 12 o'clock noon, at the court house door in said Buncombe county, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described three tracts of land belonging to the defendant, A. D. Cooper:

FIRST TRACT—Being a certain lot situated on the east side of South Main street in the city of Asheville, county of Buncombe, state of North Carolina, being the same lot conveyed to the said A. D. Cooper by T. D. Johnston and wife, Lella B. Johnston, by deed dated the 28th day of December, 1887, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Buncombe county in Book 44, page 40, and by J. K. Connally and wife by deed dated July 9th, 1889, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of Buncombe county in Book 67, page 476, the said two deeds including the said lot, and being the same lot upon which stands the brick store house now occupied by William Kroger.

SECOND TRACT—Being a certain lot of land situated on the south side of Depot street in the city of Asheville, and known as Lot No. 21 on the plat of lands formerly belonging to the Southern Improvement company, and being the same lot heretofore conveyed by the said Southern Improvement company to the said A. D. Cooper by deed dated the 20th day of August, 1891, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of Buncombe county in Book 79, page 556, and being the same lot upon which is erected a brick warehouse.

THIRD TRACT—Being a certain lot of land situated, lying and being at the corner of Haywood and Walnut streets in the city of Asheville, county of Buncombe, state of North Carolina, upon which is erected the residence now occupied by the family of the said A. D. Cooper, and also the three brick houses known as "Gray Gables." The said lot having been conveyed to said A. D. Cooper by two deeds, one of which was executed by A. B. Ware and Esther J. Ware, his wife, dated August 14th, 1882, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Buncombe county in Book 42, at page 315, said lot fronting 46 feet on Haywood street and running back 200 feet; the other deed having been executed to said A. D. Cooper by H. G. Ewart and wife, S. C. Ewart, on the 29th day of October, 1881, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Buncombe county in Book 41, page 417; this said last named lot having a frontage of 105 feet on Haywood street and 300 feet on Walnut street, the two lots together having a total frontage on Haywood street of 150 feet, saying, excepting and reserving, however, from this last named lot of land, that portion of the same which has been allotted to the said A. D. Cooper as his homestead, and which lies immediately east of the lot upon which is erected the building known as Gray Gables, and upon which stands a small brick cottage. This July 27th, 1900.

R. F. LEE, Sheriff.
By F. M. Jones, D. S.

7-13-d4t-fri

Notice.

North Carolina, Buncombe County.

Having qualified as executor of the last will and testament of J. W. Clapp, deceased, late of the said county of Buncombe, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned, or to her attorney, Geo. A. Shuford, on or before the 6th day of July, 1901, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

Notice is further given that I have paid all notes and accounts held by the said J. W. Clapp, deceased, at the time of his death, in the hands of Geo. A. Shuford, attorney at law, Asheville, North Carolina, for collection, and all persons indebted to said estate will please call and make immediate payment to my said attorney.

This July 6th, 1900.

MRS. MARY BASSETT CLAPP.
Admrx. of J. W. Clapp, decd.
7-6-d4t-fri

Notice.

North Carolina, Buncombe County.

Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. C. H. Swartzberg, deceased, late of the said county of Buncombe, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of July, 1901, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 6th day of July, 1900.

HENRY SWARTZBERG.
Admrx. of Mrs. C. H. Swartzberg.
7-6-d4t-fri

Mt. Vernon Hotel for Sale

SALISBURY, N. C.

I offer for sale the Mount Vernon hotel, Salisbury, N. C. It is located near the center of New Salisbury, at the Southern railway passenger station, serves meals to passengers by the Western North Carolina railroad trains and has always been liberally patronized.

This is a valuable property, affording good returns, and the undersigned wishes to dispose of it only because he is a but a small farmer, and it is necessary for him to continue in active business.

For terms, etc., apply to the owner, P. A. FRERCKS, Salisbury, N. C.

7-21-d-wk

Prices Drop to Zero!

This being the second week of our very successful Clearance Sale, we make the occasion extraordinary by sweepingly slashing to cost prices on seasonable articles of wear of every description. Summer goods must go, regardless of profit.

Wash Dress Goods.

At a shadow of their former prices. Their colorings and patterns comprise a magnificent assortment of beautiful floral, plaid, spray and stripe designs.

The 39c quality, Clearance Sale, 19c.
The 25c quality, Clearance Sale, 15c.

Ladies' Vests.

Shaped Ribbed Vests, low neck and sleeveless, excellent value at 15c. Clearance, 10c
Ribbed Vests, fine Egyptian Yarn, actually worth 19c. Clearance Sale, 12½c
Richelieu Ribbed Vests, lace trimmed neck and shoulders, 25c kind, " " 15c
Black, White, Blue and Pink.

At 49c we are selling an excellent Corset made of net and French saten, long and short waist—the kind the other stores sell at 75 cents.

Ladies' Mercerized Silk Petticoats—

Made of splendid quality in all the fashionable shades, umbrella effect, with ruffle, lined and corded, \$3.00 value. Clearance Sale. . . . \$1.98

We have just received another lot of the Ladies' New Style Summer Felts, in all the latest shapes, specially low priced.

The new raw edge, in pearl and castor, \$1.50 quality, only 98c
Entirely new creation, with fancy band, \$2.00 quality, only \$1.29

THE BIG BALTIMORE

★ THE BARGAIN CENTER OF ASHEVILLE ★

Special Notices

FULL line of crackers and cakes just in at Kroger's.

SEE THE COTS AT MRS. L. A. JOHNSON'S, 43 Patton ave.

WANTED—At once, first-class cook for boarding house. Address M. B. care Citizen. 7-14-dtf

MRS. R. O. PATTERSON will open the Waldheim as a first-class boarding house for the summer. 7-21-dw

MRS. DRESSER will resume her piano and violin lessons on August 1, at 69 Charlotte street. 7-23-d1w*

FOR RENT—Three desirable unfurnished rooms; three blocks from postoffice, 39 Penland street. 7-123-d1w

SUBURBAN board, near golf links, 15 minutes' walk to cars; high ground, fine view, new house, choice table.—Mrs. Gulliver, Ottolow, Box 47.

DESK WANTED—A roller top preferred. Must be in good condition and a bargain. Weaver & Alexander, 26 Patton avenue or P. O. Box 24. 7-14-dtf

WANTED—A good family horse—gentle and sound, not too old. W. A. Elliott, at Dr. T. C. Smith's drug store. 7-14-dtf

WANTED—A 5 or 6 room cottage, with modern conveniences, on or near the depot car line. Address "L. W. N." care The Citizen. 7-24-dtf

WE have a bargain in a 100-acre farm on the Swannanoa river. It has a nice six-room house with stable and outhouses. J. B. Bostic Co. 7-14-dtf

THE FINEST lot of new Dressers to be found in the city are now at my place at astonishingly low prices. W. L. Moore, No. 11 West Court Square. A home 37.

A PRIVATE FAMILY in the suburbs, convenient to street cars, will take a few boarders for the summer. Address SHADY LAWN, this office. 7-9-dtf

WILL exchange two lots in good locations in Chicago for house and ground in Asheville; value of lots \$3000.00. Address M. J. Kenny, Chicago, Ill., 71 E. Randolph St. 7-23-d1w*

PRIVATE BOARD—Newly arranged house, cool and shady verandas, handy to churches and postoffice, popular street and fine view. Mrs. S. L. Gragg, 106 South Main street. 7-21-d-wk

LOST—Between Chestnut street and the city pumping station, paper box containing gold watch, rings, etc. Reward of \$100.00 if returned to H. W. Howe, 138 Chestnut street. 7-21-d-wk

FOR RENT ONLY—A large fine residence; 16 rooms; furnished; servants' house and carriage house; large grounds; central location. \$125 per month. Owner and one daughter will board with renter and allow liberal discount from rent. Apply to John M. Campbell, Real Estate Agent, No. 9½ North Main st.

VERY DESIRABLE rooms with board; new house, furnace heated, electric lights and bells, superb view, on paved street, near churches and postoffice. Mrs. F. A. Hall, 103 South Main street. 3-27-d4t

TODAY I have an Oak Book Case, Office Revolving Chair, Small Ice Box, Antique Walnut Desk, Ladies' Riding Saddle, New Columbia Encyclopedia, etc. W. Turner, 35 North Main. Phone 225.

FOR RENT—A 10-room house, newly papered and painted; less than one-half mile from postoffice and about three minutes' walk from street cars; in good neighborhood; fine shade trees. Apply to R. G. Hunt, city postoffice. 9-25-dtf

THE annual election for the purpose of choosing 11 directors of the Asheville Board of Trade will be held at the office of the Secretary on Friday, July 27, 1900, between the hours of 12 m. and 4 p. m. B. M. Jones, Secretary.

WANTED—A GOOD MALE COOK (white) to cook in a logging camp for about 15 men. Also a good white girl for general housework. Address Union Lumber Co., W. I. Boyer, supt., Jarrett's, N. C. 7-10.

LOST—A bunch of keys, between Court Square and Mitchell's store, on South Main. Some of the keys are numbered, with one broken key. Finder will be rewarded by leaving keys at Dr. Van Bergen's residence in Victoria. 7-26-dtf

HOUSE TO RENT on Hendersonville acres goes with house; also good station. House has eight rooms and bath room, all in good order. Garden of 1½ acres goes with house; also good stable. Apply Office Biltmore Estate, Biltmore, N. C. 7-26-dtf

FOR SALE—New 36-room hotel with \$500 worth of furniture in same one-half mile of thriving town, near station. Finest summer resort in country; 40 acres good land belonging to it, \$4200—one-half cash, balance on good terms. Apply J. M. Campbell.

WANTED—To buy from 100 to 500 acres of rich, fertile land, preferably with a stream of water running through it; state full particulars and references, and lowest spot cash price; principals only dealt with. Address J. Bradley, Stamford, Conn. 7-23-d1w*

TYPEWRITERS OF ALL MAKES—We buy, sell and rent typewriters of all makes. If you intend buying a new machine, we beyond doubt the "standard," which is lasting quality and all-round excellence cannot be approached.—Type-writer Exchange, 33 Patton avenue.

FOR SALE AND RENT—7 room cottage Chestnut st., furnished; 8 room house Charlotte st., furnished; 8 room house Cumberland ave., furnished; 3 unfurnished cottages, 6 rooms each. For Sale—3 choice lots Merrimon ave.; pretty grove lot East st., on car line; bargain in 9 room house Cumberland ave.; choice lots on Vance and Oak sts., prices low; big bargain 7 room house Starves ave.; timber lands, 2000 acres, 10,000 acres, 400 acres, all fine hardwood in virgin state. Natl Atkinson Sons' Co., Real Estate Dealers.

MILK COW for sale.—William Johnston, Jr., 20 Temple Court. Phone 378. 7-27-dtf

WANTED—Reliable permanent man. Office and outside work. Enclose stamp and references.—A. T. Morris, P. O., general delivery. d1t

WANTED—BOARDERS; IN COUNTRY; private family; 10 minutes' walk from Biltmore and Asheville Street Car line; pleasant, elevated home; fine views; overlooks the Biltmore valley; large, airy rooms; table supplied with fresh vegetables and fruits from farm. Jersey milk and butter; rates reasonable; no consumptives taken. Mrs. Chas. R. Whitaker, Biltmore, N. C.

FOR RENT—NO. 110 HAYWOOD STREET; 15-room house, steam heat, electric lights and call bells to each room; 2 baths; large verandas; elegant location, on Battery Park hill and within three blocks of center of the city. Also 2 lovely flats of 5 and 6 rooms, furnished or unfurnished; electric lights and all modern improvements; hot and cold water and range in kitchen. Apply to O. D. Revell, 32-34 Patton ave.

WANTED—MORE IMPROVED and unimproved property to sell to parties prepared to pay cash for same, particularly for vacant land on Haywood road in the vicinity of the University school. I have several inquiries by prospective purchasers for desirable sites in this last neighborhood. Parties having such properties will find it to their advantage to address or call upon A. J. Lyman, offices 13 Church st., telephone No. 344.

CITY MARKET.

Corrected by Clarence Sawyer, wholesale and retail grocer. These prices are being paid by the merchants of the city today:

Country butter. 10 to 20
Eggs. 10½
Chickens. 12½ to 15
Turkeys. 50 to 75
Lucks. 15 to 20
Potatoes, Irish. 25
Turnips. 25
Onions. \$2.00 crate
Cabbage, per pound. 3-4 to 1c
Beans, per bushel. \$2.00 to \$2.50
Peas. \$1.00 to \$1.25
Apples. \$2.00
Apples, dried. 3 to 6
Wheat. 85
Corn. 65
Meal. 64
Oats. 40
Honey. 12½ to 15
Sorghum. 20 to 25
Beeswax, per pound. 26
Hay, ton. \$18 to \$20
Apples. 40 to 80

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