Christian Stewardship.

BY CHARLES M. SHELDON,

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Continued from First Page.

army hall?" asked Aunt Royal, with a frigid look at her nephew.

"My wife," said Stuart, with a distinctness that ignored all this, but made one point very plain, "will be the undisputed mistress of this house. the is the peer of any woman living in education, accomplishment and grace, and she is the superior of most of them in her spiritual refinement and

"Are you going to bring her here?" asked Louise, with a curious look. Where else should I bring the wothe owners will yield at this late day man I marry?" asked Stuart, turning

"I didn't know but that Miss Dwight would prefer to live in a humbler fashion after all her talks and prayers about giving up this and that and the other. But of course if she decides to enjoy the sinful luxuries of life after her roughing it in army halls you know what I shall do?"

Stuart did not answer. Aunt Royal watched him closely.

"I shall simply leave, that is all," thoughtfully continued Louise. "I don't live under form of Eric. the same roof with Rhena Dwight as

Stuart was about to say something, but Louise interrupted him. "I shall be able to care for myself. You needo't plan for anything different, for I have made up my mind. Aunt Royal will let me stay with her until I am married. I shall be glad to go to New York, anyway. I'm getting tired of the winter up here, with all this gloom and sacrifice and suffering so promient. So don't put off the happy wedding day on my account, Stuart.'

Louise, I want to speak to you alone a few minutes. Aunt," continued Stuart, politely, but plainly, "will you kindly excuse me if I take Louise into the library?"

"Oh, by all means," replied Aunt Royal, who was outwardly cool and placid, but inwardly a raging fire.

So Louise went with Stuart, although she said at first she would not go. She was under his dominion when he exerted his will.

"Louise"-Stuart stood facing the pretty countenance, and a look of pity and love crept over his own-"I cannot bear to think that we are going to have this misunderstanding to arate us. Cannot you and Miss Dwight be friends?"

"No. It is out of the question," replied Louise shortly. She was think-ing of the lie she told Rhena, and she knew that, no matter if Rhena was ready to forgive it, now that she was gulf of difference between them, and, besides, she was out of sympathy with all of Stuart's present plans

"Then if that is out of the question, Louise, there is another matter I must looked over at Andrew as if half hopspeak of again. I refer to your prom- ing he would second Eric's request. that, out of the love I have for you, loved her so much as at that moment. I would almost rather see you dead than married to that"-

"Is this what you called me in here You are a coward to attack him so, behind his back."

you that I speak. I forgive your misderstanding of my motive," he added as he heard Aunt Royal nearing the door. "If the time should ever come, dear, when you feel the need of my love, my heart and home will always be open to you."

How little as he spoke Stuart thought he did look with some certainty into the door and threw it open. the future. Louise turned from him, and their interview ended. It was only one more part of the evidence, daily growing stronger in Stuart's mind, of the great difference between his old life and the new. He realized now, as he him. never had thought to know, the meaning of those words, "A man's foes shall those of his own household." The division line had been drawn the minute be chose to follow Jesus Christ, and the separation of necessity had gone lening between him and the old life, still represented by Louise and his aunt. He did not blind himself in the east as to the cause. It was very He could not be a Christian and walk hand in hand with them nor they with him. 'The two ways led in exactte directions.

But all this was only a part of the testing of his manhood. He had a far nore severe choice to make at the end

Matters were in this condition. The pullding of the new houses was going on with as much rapidity as circumhad interrupted the workmen. The immense snows were a serious hine. Added to all the rest was the difficulty of getting workmen during the cold weather. The miners who had been burned out were quartered all over the town. The hotel had arranged accommodation, Stuart providing all the expenses there. The Salvation Army did its share and more too. But the discomfort and crowding and suffering were of such a nature that even mosey, lavishly as Stuart was willing to use it, could not much more than rovide a temporary and partial relief. Felled at his horse just long enough to He was down at the Salvation Army ball one afternoon at the close of the week trying to make some arrangements for better accommodations. Rhena was at work with some of the wonen at the other end of the hall when Eric came in hastily. He was followed

in a few minutes by Andrew.
"News from De Mott is serious," said Eric. "The men down there are threat. Andrew comforted her as they went. ning to pull up the pumps again. They But Eric sat down moodily and was are at the end of their provisions and

"I can't feed the entire talning cour try, Eric." said Steast a tittle sharply. "I know it." E ... wit down on a bench and got the tage between his hands. At one : art repented him

of the sharm word. "Forgive me. ...ie. I spoke angrily. will do all in my power.

"It isn't that," replied Eric in a muffied voice. "The men have refused to listen to me any longer and say they mean to act on their own account. My authority is all over." "Nonsense!" But Stuart saw that

Eric spoke the truth. "It's so." Eric spoke with bitter-

ness. "No one is quite so ungrateful as a mob of workingmen when it turns on its leaders. My day is over."

It was just at that moment that Andrew came in. "Have you heard the news?" he asked. "They say the De Mott men are going in a body to the Queen mine to pull up the pumps and then to the Royal and so on until they have ruined every mine on the range. They have given the companie two hours to give in."

Stuart was very thoughtful. "If they do so serious a thing as that, it will lead to an appalling loss of life. The troops at Hancock have been kept in readiness by the Cleveland owners, who have been anticipating some such great suffering and want of the winmove. It is folly for the men to think

"It will be the deathblow to labor and the workingman's cause for all burial place on the slope of the range, time if they do as they say," said and he grasped his stick tighter and Eric, with a groan, "and I am as help-cursed the rich in his palace of com-less as a child. I"— Eric completely fort that bitter night. broke down and actually cried. He felt that his reign was over.

The short winter day was fast drawing, was the force of a mob bent on doing to an end. Stuart still stood there,

great influence over all the miners in he said Stuart could influence such men Champion and De Mott," said Andrew as these at such a time as this,

Stuart started. Over at the other end of the hall La could see Rhena. She had just left her task and was coming toward him. Life was very sweet to him now. Why should he risk it in a possible-yes, probabledanger by going over to the scene of this new difficulty? Was he his brother's keeper.

"That one man is yourself," continued Andrew. "You think I ought to go?" asked

Stuart calmly. "I cannot answer for you," Andrew made reply slowly.

"What are you talking about?" asked

Rhena as she came up.
"Rhena," said Stuart, "it may be necessary for me to go to De Mott tonight. It looks now as if the strike had reached a crisis, and before mornchange the situation that has held all

Rhena looked steadily at the three men.

"You are keeping back something," she said at last.

"Yes!" exclaimed Eric, lifting his head. "The men at De Mott are going to pull up the Queen mine pumps. I've lost my influence over them. If Stuart goes over there to prevent the men, he when they are drunk are devils. They going to be Stuart's wife, there was would kill any one, even Christ himself. If he went over there tonight. Don't let him go, Miss Dwight. It's almost sure death. He will only lose his life and do no good by it."

Rhena did not say a word. Stuart fee to marry Vasplaine. Be patient But Andrew was silent. Then he turnme when I tell you, Louise, dear, ed toward Rhena again. He had never

I am sure Eric exaggerates the danger. for?" cried Louise furiously, raising If I am the only man with enough inher voice. "I will not listen to it fluence to prevent an outbreak, I am in duty bound to exert it."

chind his back."
"No; don't go!" cried Rhena, and
"Louise," interrupted Stuart, who then she stopped. She had taken one was deathly pale, "It is out of love for step toward Stuart. He was not looking at her, but seemed to be hesitating for something.

She spoke again. "I would not have you a coward to please me. If you

"I must," replied Stuart. "God bless and keep you." He leaned over and kissed her, and without another word of the meaning of those words, even if to either Andrew or Eric he stepped to

"I'll send over to the hotel barn for a horse!" cried Andrew. Just at that moment Dr. Saxon drove up. "He is just in time," said Stuart

calmly, as if he had been expecting He told the doctor in a few words

that he must go to De Mott at once.

"Get in, then! This means more gunshot wound practice for me maybe." He whispered to Rhena, who had come



He whispered to Rhenn, who stood at the

side of the cutter out to the side of the cutter, pale and trembling: "Don't you fear, lass. The Lord protects drunkards and fools when they don't know enough to stay at home nights. Whon now, Ajax!" he

allow Stuart to say goodby to Rhena. The next instant Stuart had leaped into the cutter, and Ajax was flying over the road to De Mott. Andrew and Eric and Rhena stood at the door of

the hall watching. Finally Rheea said, "Let us go inside and pray."

Andrew and Eric followed her, and

other women and Andrew were praying together he went suftly our of the gathering dask he finally started in a briak walk and gradually flurrensed in to a run. He followed the track of the doctor's entter and was soon running with all his speed over the De Mott

CHAPTER SI

When Stuart and the doctor swept into De Mott after a fierce ride behind the founding Ajax, they found almost the entire population gathered around the pastoffice block, in which was a large hall, used during the winter mostly for traveling show com-

It was packed tonight with the miners. The union was in session, and every man who could find a foothold uside was there. The rest were waiting outside to hear a final decision. Not a man of them but believed the result had already been determined and that before morning every pump on the range would be pulled out and the companies would lose millions of dollars' worth of property in a few hours. It would be a grim revenge of labor over capital. It would strike capital at its most sensitive spot. It would be a real satisfaction for the

ter. And many and many a hollow faced miner in the crowd around the hall was thinking of a little child lying dead under the snow in the great

Stuart never feit more helpless. He looked at the faces around him, and Andrew looked gravely at Stuart, his heart sank as he realized how great its own pleasure. He felt as if any in thoughtfully looking at the bowed fluence he might possess in Champlot form of Eric. There is one man who still has ly Andrew had been mistaken when

He was roused from all this by the doctor, who spoke short and sharp. "Now, then, let's make a break for the hall! We'll leave Ajax right here."

Stuart was astonished. "They won't let us in the hall." "We'll see about that," replied the doctor.

He drove Alax up in front of one of the drug stores where he was in the habit of stopping when he came to De Mott, and, getting out of the cutter, with Stuart following with much wonder, he began to force his way to the hall door. As Stuart went on he began to realize that there had been a mistake made by Andrew. If there was one man left a lo had real influence ever the miners. I was not Stuart Duncan, but Dr. Sa:

It was almost comical to see the changes that tover the miners' ing something will probably occur to faces as the door shoved men this way and that he der to get near the ball. At first the ed to do unspeasable damage for the rough treatment some one was giving them, but the minute they caught sight of the rugged, kin , face they were as polite and ready to make room as if he had been some high and mighty potentate and they his loyal subjects.

"Get out of the way there! Doctor, he be needed in the hall. Some one be hurt in there likely?" And a big Dane reached out and caught a miner, who was standing in front of the doctor, by the collar and pulled him off his feet as if he had been a dummy in a clothing

gling in his wake, fought and had fought for him a way up to the hall door. Thirty years' absolute devotion to the great needs of the miners in De Mott as well as in Champion had endeared the doctor to every stolid, obsti-"Rhena," he said in a low tone, "I nate, dull, heavy brained, but warm feel as if I ought to go over to De Mott. hearted man out of the 5,000, but even tonight he was privileged to go where wanted and no questions anked.



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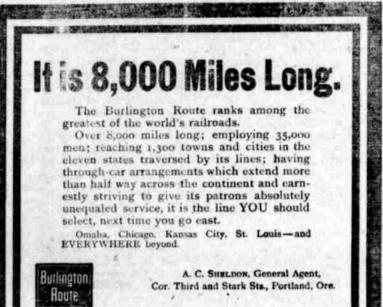
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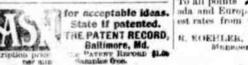
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