

**IN HIS STEPS; A
DRAMATIC ADAPTATION
OF THE STORY**

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In his steps; a dramatic adaptation of the story by Charles M. Sheldon & Frank H. Lane

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CHARLES M. SHELDON & FRANK H. LANE

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IN HIS STEPS

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A Dramatic Adaptation of the Story

BY

CHARLES M. SHELDON

AND

FRANK H. LANE

All acting rights, both professional and amateur, are reserved.
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obtained from the Authors.

All correspondence should be made with Professor F. H. Lane,
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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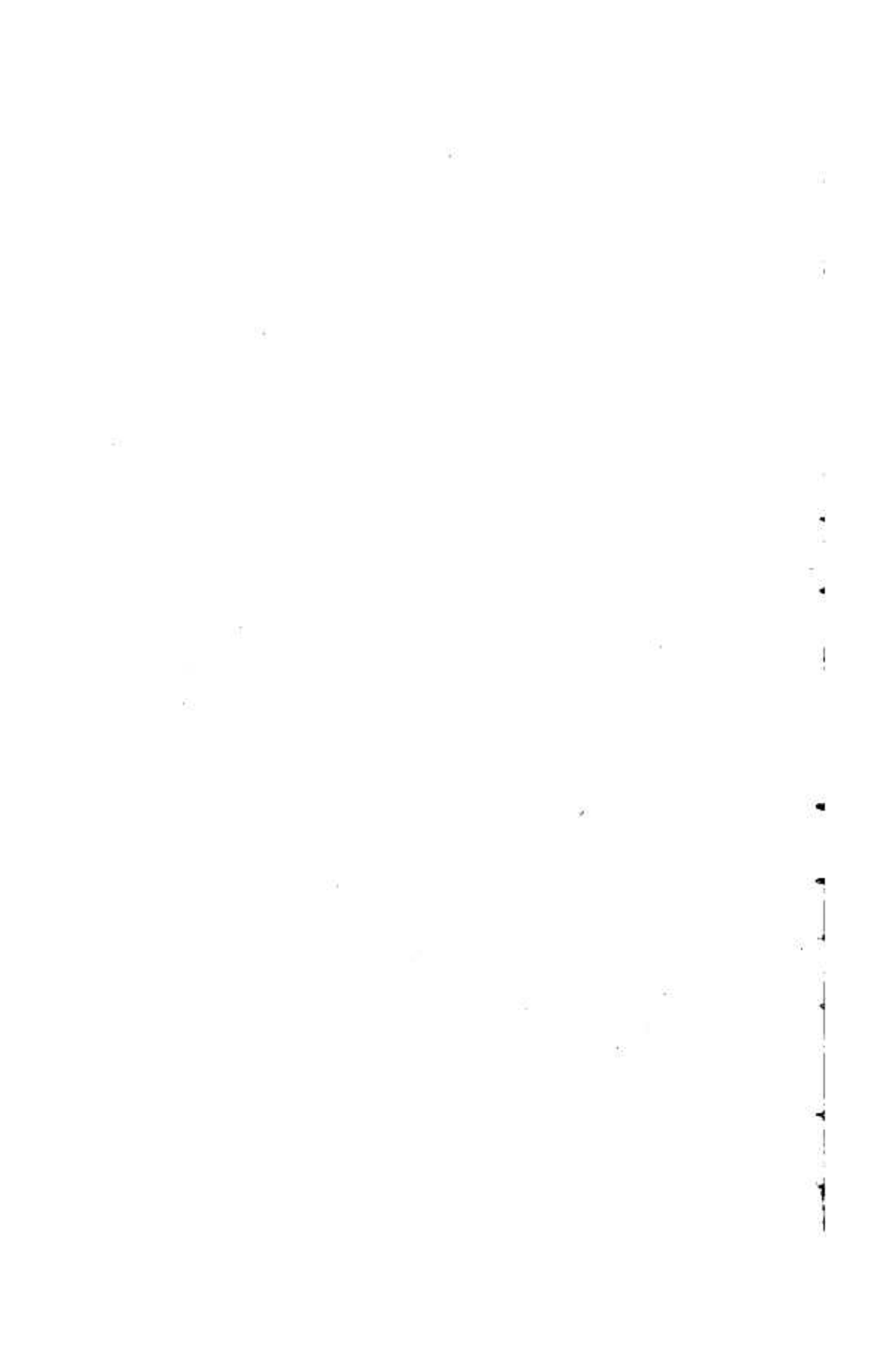
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INTRODUCTORY PREFACE TO DRAMATIZATION.

148.75 B.E.H.

This dramatized version of *In His Steps* is based upon the version which was used for the first time in my own church here in Topeka, December 19-20, 1910. It has been made under my direction and by my authority by Professor F. H. Lane of the Department of Dramatic Art in Washburn College. The dramatization follows almost literally the original story of *In His Steps* as first written. The changes which have been made are all of them minor adaptations to the dramatic need. It is my earnest conviction that this dramatization can be successfully used by any earnest group of Christian young people in the churches, the Christian associations, colleges or Endeavor societies. Before presenting the drama, those who intend using it are asked to read carefully the note of directions printed by Professor Lane. A careful reading of these directions will help very materially in presenting the drama in the proper way. This is not intended to be in the nature of a mere entertainment but is what it purports to be, a religious dramatization of a story with a purpose; and those who enter into it both as actors and listeners should bear this in mind. The expense of presenting the drama is nominal. It can be put upon the platform of any church auditorium or upon any stage without the ordinary stage settings. It was first given in my own church without curtain, scenery, or costume of any kind in the way of professional equipment. The entire expense need not exceed ten or fifteen dollars. It is my earnest wish that the use of this drama may promote an earnest Christian desire on the part of those who have anything to do with it to make more of their Christian lives in the actual service of the Master. This adaptation is fully authorized by me as the only dramatization which has been made under my own supervision.

CHARLES M. SHELDON,
Central Church, Topeka, Kansas.



NOTE ON THE PLAY.

When *In His Steps* was given in Topeka, the pulpit platform was enlarged, steps leading down from each side; curtains, footlights and scenery were not used; only the most necessary articles of furniture were put on the stage. When a curtain seemed necessary the lights were lowered. The play may still be given in the same way.

In the present edition the description of stage, entrances, etc., presupposes stage properties. Of course if the play is to be given on the pulpit platform, modification may be necessary.

The prologue and epilogue are scenes taken from the first presentation, and were put on in the following manner:

The first three or four rows of seats in the middle of the church are reserved for the audience of actors. These seats, pulpit and choir loft are the settings for the scenes. The lights are lowered, while the audience, minister, and choir take their places. When the lights are turned on, the audience is seated, the minister standing in the pulpit and the choir in place. The funeral scene was put on in the same way. At the close of the third act, Loreen remains on the stretcher. While the lights are low, a drapery is thrown over Loreen, the chairs are arranged, the pledge-takers, except Powers, seat themselves, and the friends of Loreen, with shawls, sometimes over their heads as foreign women wear them in our cities, file into the places reserved for the audience of actors.

The prologue and epilogue in the Central Church were easily staged. If they can be well put on, they make vivid pictures and should be retained. If the setting seems too difficult for the ordinary stage or platform, these scenes may be omitted since the drama is complete without them.

SUGGESTION ON THE CHARACTERS.

- Maxwell.—Tall, slight, distinguished; nervous but decided manner, 38.
- Norman.—Large with an air of conscious power, determined face, 50.
- Powers.—Medium size, alert, happy face, clouded by trouble, 40.
- Clark.—Short, thick set, positive, quick speech, 55.
- West.—Short, baldheaded, jolly face, blunt manner, 48.
- Rollin.—A typical club and society man, 23.
- Manning.—Tall, haggard, angular, quiet manner and voice, 25.
- George.—Clerk in News Office. Newsboys.
- Mrs. Winalow.—Small, pretty, soft-spoken, weak woman, 40.
- Madam Page.—Large, majestic, positive, 65.
- Virginia Page.—Slight, dark, decided, vivacious, 26.
- Rachel Winslow.—Tall, fair, graceful, deliberate, 20.
- Loreen.—Delicate, pretty girl, 18.
- Alice, Maud, Dorothy.—Fashionable young ladies.
- James, Mary, Jenny.—Servants to Virginia.

PROLOGUE.—Church Scene.

ACT I.—Editor's Office.

Six months elapse.

ACT II.—Room in Virginia's Home.

Six months elapse.

ACT III.—The Same.

EPILOGUE.—The Funeral of Loreen.

TIME AND PLACE.

Raymond.—A Manufacturing Town in the United States.

1896—1897.

