

ture of the monster magnate is pathetic in the extreme. Bereaved of his wife, disgraced by his son, forsaken by daughter—alone in the world. Clear as an icicle in his thinking, cold as an iceberg in his cogitations, self centred in all his thoughts, is—Eldon Parr.

The two outstanding characters of the book, aside from the hero, John Hodder and Alison Parr, the millionaire's daughter, who finally becomes "Mrs. Hodder," are, Eldon Parr and Horace Bentley. These two masculine characters stand in striking contrast. Eldon Parr, the master of millions. Horace Bentley, the master of hearts. Both are members of the same church until the millionaire drives the philanthropist out.

Eldon Parr, the king of commerce, the grand monarch of finance, the Lorenzo of commercialism, the Napoleon of capital combines, the special heavy weight in church and community—the living incarnation of everything which is ungodly and anti-christian. And dear old Mr. Bentley, of whom it was said that "he had only to enter a street car in order to turn it into a prayer meeting." Here we have in contrast, strong and striking, the nadir and zenith of moral character and social conduct.

Winston Churchill has brought the modern church before the judgment bar of public opinion. Eldon Parr is a church official who has "gathered in" twenty-five millions (to give but one episode from his questionable career) out of a deal by which multitudes have been ruined. Because he was an official in the church, because he walked the aisles of St. John's church on the Sabbath day in an official capacity, because he had been honored as one of its vestrymen, because he was a recognized leader in affairs spiritual and ecclesiastical, therefore, scores had pinned their faith to this modern wizard of finance only to discover, in the hour of commercial crisis and crash, that they had lost their all—while Eldon Parr has skillfully "stood from under."

There are other members of St. John's church, who are questionable in their business methods. Professed Christians who own grim tenements, rent their houses for brothels, profit by the underpaid work of children, deal out starvation wages to adults, profit by unjust and unfair politics, grow rich by the proceeds of vice, and, evading the law, reap millions. But all of these are alike in one particular—they are all "sound," "orthodox" and reliable in their religious views. They all believe in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception and stand pat on the theory of the Virgin Birth.