

Sisters

KATHLEEN NORRIS



Cherry, who had not slept and who was pale, had come out to the car, her distracted manner increasing Alix's sense that something was gravely amiss. She started on her trip with a heavy heart, but the half-hour's run soothed her in spite of herself, and now she reached the cabin in a much more cheerful mood.

Peter was nowhere about, and as she plunged into the work of house and farmyard she supposed, without giving the matter a conscious thought, that he had gone to the city.

"Mis' Peter not go train," Kow announced presently.

All Alix's vague suspicions awakened.

"Not go train?" she asked with a premonitory pang.

Kow made a large gesture, as indicating affairs disorganized.

"Him no come to bed," he further stated. "Boss come late. He walkin' on porch."

"He came in late and walked on the porch!" Alix echoed in a low tone, as if to herself. "Where Mr. Peter go now?" she asked. "He have some coffee?"

"No eat," the boy answered. He indicated the direction of the creek, and after a while Alix, with an icy heart, went to the bridge and the pool where Peter had first found Cherry only a few weeks ago.

He was standing, staring vaguely at the low and finging stream, and Alix felt a great pang of pity when she saw him. He came to her smiling, but as Cherry had smiled, with a wan and ghastly face.

"Peter, you're not well?" Alix said.

"I think—I am a little upset," he answered. They walked back to the house together. Alix ordered him to take a hot bath, and made him drink some coffee, when, refreshed and grateful, he came out to the porch half an hour later. They shared the little meal that was her luncheon and his breakfast.

He followed her to the car and got in the front seat beside her.

"You're awfully good to me," he said, briefly, when they were going down the long grade.

Alix did not answer immediately and he thought that she had not heard. She ran the big machine through the valley, stopped at the postoffice, and still in silence began the climb toward the old house. The roads were all narrow here, but she could have followed them in the dark, he knew, and he understood that it was not her driving that made her face so thoughtful and kept her eyes from meeting his.

"You say I'm good to you, Pete," she surprised him by saying suddenly. "I hope I am. For you've been very good to me, my dear. There's only one thing in life that I haven't got, and that is you, and that you can't, unfortunately, get for me."

He had flushed darkly, and he spoke with a little effort. "I'd like to try!"

She ignored the invitation for a few minutes, and for an instant of panic he thought he saw her lip tremble. But when she turned to him, it was with her usual smile.

"It's only that I would like to have you—and—and Martin—and Cherry—is happy as I am!" she said quickly. And a second later the mood was gone as she turned the car in at the home gate and exclaimed, "There's Cherry now!"

"Martin's somewhere about," Cherry said as Peter joined her, and Alix stopped the car within conversational range.

Alix remarking that she would turn the car so that she might later start on the grade, disappeared, and the two were together again, after what a night—and what a day!—and that was all that mattered. They spoke confusedly, in brief monosyllables, and were silent, their eyes meeting only furtively and briefly.

"Can you walk up to the cabin with me?" Peter asked. "I want so much to speak to you. Everything's all arranged for tomorrow. All you have to think of is yourself. Now, in case of missing the boat again—which isn't conceivable, but we must be ready for anything—I shall go straight to the club. You must telephone me there. Just go off tonight quietly, get as much sleep as you can, and keep your wits about you."

"Tell me our plans again," Cherry faltered.

"It's perfectly simple," he said, giving her an anxious face a concerned glance. "You are going to the Olivers'. I go in, in the morning, to get your suitcase and my own and get to the boat. I shall be there at half-past ten. You get there before eleven—you won't see me. But go straight on board and ask for Mrs. Joyce's cabin. Wait for me there!"

"But—suppose you don't come!"

"I'll be there before you. It is better for us not to meet upstairs. But to be sure, I'll telephone you at Minna Oliver's at about nine o'clock tomorrow morning. I'll just tell you that I'm on my way and that everything is all right! Do you realize that by this time tomorrow we shall be out at sea."

he added, "leaning on the rail—watching the Pacific race by—and belonging to each other forever and ever?"

The picture flooded her face with happy color. "It's tomorrow at last!" she said wonderingly as they walked slowly toward the house. "I thought it would never be. It's only a few hours more now."

"How will you feel when it's today?" he asked.

"Oh, Peter, I shall be so glad when it's all over, and when the letters are written, and when we've been together for a year," she answered fervently. "I know it will be all as we have planned, but—but if it were over!"

They reached the side door now and were mounting the three steps together.

"Be patient until tomorrow," he whispered.

"Oh, Peter, I shall be so glad when it's all over, and when the letters are written, and when we've been together for a year," she answered fervently. "I know it will be all as we have planned, but—but if it were over!"

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"Whatever we do, it all seems so—wrong!" Cherry said with watering eyes. "Whatever we do is wrong," he agreed soberly. "But we go!" she said on a fluttering breath. "We must go!" Peter answered. And again, like the ominous fall of a heavy bell-tongue, the words formed in his heart: "Alix knows. Alix knows."

He thought of the afternoon, only a few weeks ago, when Cherry's beauty had made so sudden and so irresistible an appeal to him, and of the innocent delight of their luncheon together, when she had first confided in him, and of the days of secret and intense joy that her mere presence and the knowledge that he would see her had afforded him. It had all seemed so fresh, so natural, so entirely their own affair, until the tragic day of Martin's reappearance and the hour of agonized waiting at the boat for the Cherry who did not come. There had been no joyous self-confidence in that hour, none in the distressed hour at the Orpheum, and the hour just past, when Cherry's rarely displayed passion had wrunged from him his last vestige of doubt.

But this was the culminating unhappiness that he should know, from Alix's brave and gentle and generous look as they parted, that Alix knew. He had, in the wild rush and hurry of his thoughts, no time now to analyze what their love must mean to her, but it hurt him to see on her happy face those lines of sternness and gravity, to see her bright and honest eyes shadowed with that new look of pain.

(To be Continued.)

OUTPUT OF THE GINS

Last Report Shows But Few More Sales to be Counted.

The ginners' report made public on Monday of last week shows that very little cotton was ginned for the period included in that report. There will be only one more report for this season, and that will be the final report issued in March.

The report for the period up to January 16 shows no change in the relative position of any of the South Carolina counties. York has gone beyond the 40,000 mark, which is considerably more than was estimated at the first of the season. Following is the report by counties:

County	1921	1920
Abbeville	17,067	31,931
Aiken	13,386	42,979
Allendale	4,543	13,388
Anderson	63,050	78,646
Bamberg	4,006	20,662
Barnwell	7,905	28,276
Berkeley	1,090	8,163
Calhoun	5,374	38,726
Charleston	14,996	19,187
Chester	26,486	35,131
Chesterfield	24,682	36,085
Clarendon	8,282	47,689
Colleton	2,043	6,698
Darlington	22,746	50,025
Dillon	34,586	40,168
Dorchester	1,688	9,581
Edgefield	7,607	26,123
Fairfield	10,341	27,788
Florence	21,694	44,922
Georgetown	470	4,232
Greenville	43,468	46,113
Greenwood	14,080	38,818
Hampton	3,041	7,024
Horry	3,965	10,308
Kershaw	12,810	39,905
Lancaster	16,360	23,478
Laurens	35,752	59,843
Lee	19,561	47,777
Lexington	9,286	32,555
McCormick	4,381	15,993
Marion	12,002	21,394
Marlboro	50,558	66,537
Newberry	19,112	44,585
Oconee	21,799	21,774
Orangeburg	18,513	32,940
Pickens	22,460	19,056
Richland	8,435	36,119
Saluda	9,531	29,829
Spartanburg	71,349	80,368
Sumter	18,582	58,386
Union	17,298	24,039
Williamsburg	7,501	33,128
York	41,482	41,790
All other	1,470	2,199
The state	775,393	1,506,358

A Delightful Home.—A Gentleman in the garment business was telling about the suburban home he had just bought.

"The grounds is fixed with flowers something elegant like a cemetery already," he said, "and what a wonderful dining room we got it. We could sit down there to dinner thirty-five people God forbid."

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

YOU'S WRONG WEN YOU TRIES T' DRIVE FOLKS WAY FUM YO' RIVAL -- EF YOU WANTS A OLE COW T' EAT UP A STRAW STACK, JES' RUN 'ER WAY FUM IT A TIME ER TWO!



IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. E. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) Copyright, 1922, Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 5

ELIJAH TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

LESSON TEXT.—II Kings, 2:1-18. GOLDEN TEXT.—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2:10. REFERENCE MATERIAL.—Mark 9:2-8; II Tim. 4:1-3. PRIMARY TOPIC.—God Takes Elijah to Heaven. JUNIOR TOPIC.—Elijah Taken Up Into Heaven. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC.—Jehovah's Champion Exalted. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC.—Divine Approval of Faithful Service.

1. God Reveals to Elijah His Approaching Rapture (v. 1).

It was made known to Elijah that he was to go to heaven by a whirlwind. There is a striking correspondence between his life and his home-going. Much of his life was characterized with the rush of the storm, so God chose to take him home to himself in the whirlwind. As a reward for his faithfulness, God lifted the prophet over death into heaven. Elijah did not choose the time of his home-going, but was ready.

2. Elijah's Closing Ministry (vv. 2-8).

Knowing that the time of his home-going was near, he did not change his manner or method of life, but thoughtfully and calmly pursued his customary duties.

1. Visits the schools of the prophets (vv. 2-8). At the Lord's direction he went to give his farewell counsels to the young students whom he had been training and upon whom the future of the nation politically and religiously so largely depended. He made regular rounds in visitation and instruction. Schools were located at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. His educational work shows him to have been not merely an iconoclast, but a statesman of a high order.

2. Trains Elisha to be his successor (vv. 2-8). There was a real friendship between Elijah and Elisha, though the one was old and the other young. Elisha came into the life of Elijah in the field when Elijah called him from the plow (I Kings 19:19-21). Elisha clung to his master to the very last in spite of three urgent requests for him to remain behind. These tests were somewhat like those of the Master with Peter (John 21:15-17). The great object was to get him ready to take up the work which Elijah was to lay down. The order of progress of the journey indicates, says Scofield, "the experience of every child of God who enters into a vital experience of God's best. That walk began at Gilgal. The typical significance of Gilgal cannot be mistaken by any reader of Joshua. Gilgal was the place where a redeemed people rolled away the reproach of Egypt (Josh. 5:1-11)."

"The next stage was Bethel—house of God—the place of vision, of spiritual insight, for Bethel was the place where Jehovah gave Jacob the great ladder vision (Gen. 28:10-12). He must go on from Bethel to Jordan. Jordan stands for the New Testament truth, crucified with Christ. There, on the resurrection side of Jordan, the gift of power awaited the prophet."

III. Elijah's Rapture (vv. 9-11).

1. Elisha's request of Elijah (v. 9). The walk of Elisha with Elijah from Gilgal to Jordan has prepared him for the final question of Elijah before his rapture. Elijah now knew that it was safe to allow Elisha to choose for himself. Elisha made a noble request—did not ask for riches, honor or position. He supremely desired the qualifications which would enable him to worthily succeed Elijah. Curiously enough, however, Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah.

2. The condition of receiving was steadfastness and perseverance (v. 10). He must have faith in the invisible life in order to have power for public ministry.

3. Elijah's rapture (v. 11). It seems that he went to heaven in a chariot of fire enveloped by the whirlwind. Elijah underwent that change which all believers shall experience at the appearing of Christ (I Cor. 15:51, 52).

IV. The Spirit of Elijah Upon Elisha (vv. 12-15).

1. Elisha's cry (v. 12). He cried after Elijah, "The chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof!" This shows the value of a godly man to his country. It implies that Elijah was the true national defense, Godliness and character are more important than armies and navies.

2. Elisha uses the power (vv. 13, 14). He had faith to put the power to test.

3. The spirit of Elijah on Elisha (v. 15). This was confirmed by the sons of the prophets.

BOBBED HAIR

A Badge of Servitude Says New York Authority. "Bobbed hair in this city is becoming no more than a badge of servitude. From a mode of the ultra-fashionable, it descended through various degrees of smartness to a strictly utilitarian level. "Soon it will be only women who find it convenient to save time and effort by having short hair who will submit to shorn locks." This is the assertion made by Harry Spiro, New York expert on hair styles and beauty culture generally. Despite the fact that the beauty of

Central America is becoming more beautiful because of bobbed hair tresses, Mr. Spiro indicated that it is curtains, fade-out, thirty, the air, all which means the end of the perky which so long has managed to make seventeen of seventy and to establish rakish air of abandon for one and all of the wearers. The Spiro shops are among the oldest established in Manhattan.

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