

"I do when there's any great call for it; but my fishin' days are about over, an' I'm gettin' to hug the shore pretty considerable."

"Then what have you got this vessel for?"

"She does to cruise 'round in now an' then. If I didn't own her I'd be mighty lonesome, seel'n's how I've lived on salt water the most of my life. But I'm a leetle more fore-handed than some of my neighbours, an' can afford to do what pleases me."

"When are you going out again?"
 "Would you like to take a sail, little Ellen?" and the old man laid his big, brown hand almost tenderly on the tiny shoulder.

"Indeed I would, sir; if it was safe."
 "Safe, child? It's safer at sea than it is on shore. If it so be you want to go, why say the word, an' Cap'n Hiram is the skipper for you to sail under."

"I shouldn't like to put you to any trouble, sir."

"Yes, that's jest the way with girls!" Thomas Hardy interrupted. "They talk soft like that, when all the time they're most dyl'n to go. Say, Captain Hiram, you wouldn't take her an' leave me on the land, would you?"

"I s'pose I'd have to put up with you for the sake of havin' little Ellen along."
 "Then why don't you start? She wants to go."

The old man leaned over the child, who was caressing the not-over-cleanly baby, and must have seen in her face that Thomas Hardy had spoken the truth, for he said quickly,—

"I allow the tide'll be up so we can get the Island Queen afloat in a couple of hours; an' if it so be that you want to go, little Ellen, run up an' ask your mother. Tell her Cap'n Hiram Stubbs has given you the invite, an' he'll be proud to have the company of a quiet little woman like you."

"Do you think it will be safe if I leave the baby here with you and Thomas Hardy while I go to Mrs. Littlefield's, sir?"

"Well, I ain't sayin' anything for Thomas Hardy; but it don't strike me that it'll be any ways pleasant to leave that Jones youngster with me, 'cause I never did get along with boys, nohow."

"I'll go for you, Nell," Thomas Hardy said quickly. "It would take you an hour to go there and back, 'cause you'd have to fuss over mother half a day if you got where she was" and without waiting to learn whether his proposition was acceptable, Master Seabury hurried off more quickly than he would have done had he been bent on a mission the result of which in nowise affected him.

"I reckon we can trust him to find out what we want to know, seel'n's how he wants a sail worse'n you do; an' we'll set here in the shade till he gets back, little Ellen. It'll be quite a spell before the tide serves; an' then, if that 'ere fog-bank don't come down on us, I'll show you what the Island Queen can do when she tries."

"Do you dare to go very far in such a small vessel, sir?"

"Child, I'd be willin' to go anywhere in her. She's safer than many a bigger craft, an' knows me as I do her."

During this time Samuel Abner Jones had contrived to content himself by unwinding and re-winding the moist, tiny curls of paint which Captain Hiram had scraped from the bottom of the Island Queen, and in so doing had smeared his face and hands until he looked really like a freak of nature, rather than the offspring of respectable parents.

Now, however, it was as if he had determined to make himself the central figure in the scene; for he started toward the incoming waves as fast as his little bowed legs would carry him, much to the alarm of Ellen, who ran after him with no slight show of motherly solicitude.

"You are wastin' good genuine sympathy, little Ellen, for it ain't deserved," Captain Hiram said, as a twinkle came into the eyes which were nearly hidden from view by the over-hanging, bushy eyebrows. "There is never a Jones in these 'ere parts as would suffer from goin' too near the water, an' sometimes I believe they are more afraid of it in a wash-basin than when it's spread out as it is here in the harbour."

"But he might get drowned, Captain Hiram, if he was allowed to go so near the sea alone."

"Not a bit of it, little Ellen. The natural aversion of the Joneses to water would prevent him from goin' too far, an' you needn't consider it your bounden duty to keep track of him all the while you stay in Oldhaven. You are a motherly sort of a body by nature, an' I allow you'll allers be lookin' after somethin' or somebody as long as you live."

"It is better to be of service in the world, Captain Hiram, even though one

is small, than to selfishly think only of one's own amusement."

Right you are, an' this 'ere would be a better world if everybody should take up your way of thinkin'. Do you know, little Ellen—it seems foolish, I'll admit, but I can't help thinkin' of you an' my old mother in the same breath. She was the same careful kind of a body regardin' other people that you give promise of bein', an' a better woman never trod in shoe-leather. If it so be that all the angels are like her, heaven must be a mighty pleasant place for a careless man like me."

"Is your mother an angel, Captain Hiram?" Ellen asked in a whisper, and totally unmindful of the fact that Samuel Abner was once more dangerously near the water's edge.

"There ain't the least shadow of a doubt of it in my mind, little Ellen; for even though it should happen there was too many angels in heaven, the Lord couldn't miss the chance of gettin' another like her; an', bless you, child, she'll pick up somethin' to do for other people even there."

"Has she been dead long, Captain Hiram?"

"It seems so to me, little Ellen, though it's only a year an' two months since the big white angels came for her. While she was alive there was no man in Oldhaven, or anywhere else in this wide world for that matter, who had a cheerfuller home than this same Cap'n Hiram Stubbs; an' now I allow there's mighty few with a more desolate one."

"Didn't you ever have a wife?"

"Why, child, what was the need of it while my mother was livin'? I never

"I couldn't help it, little one," he said, apologetically.

"Oh, I didn't mind it, sir, in the least; and I'll kiss you, if you'll let me."

"If I'll let you, little Ellen? Why, I'll thank you for it," and the old man rubbed his face vigorously with the sleeve of his shirt, after which he stooped down until his head was on a level with Ellen's.

Putting one arm around his neck almost caressingly, she gave him as tender a kiss as she might have given Samuel Abner; and there was a suspicious moisture in the old man's eyes as he raised himself slowly, placing his hand reverentially upon the brown curls as he said solemnly,—

"May the Lord love, and keep trouble far from you, little Ellen!"

"Thank you, sir."

A shrill voice from the other side of the Island Queen caused Captain Hiram to start almost guiltily, as Thomas Hardy shouted at the full strength of his lungs,—

"Mother is willing, if Captain Stubbs really wants us to go; and Miss Littlefield says she wonders what's come over that old curmudgeon, 'cause he never asked anybody out sailing afore. What's a curmudgeon, Captain Hiram?"

"I reckon the kind Maria Littlefield means will come pretty nigh answerin' to my description," the old man replied grimly. "It's little Ellen I asked to go out sailin', an' if it so be that you make one of the party, it's because of her invite, not mine."

"Of course I'll go if she does, else who'd take care of her? Girls ain't fit to go anywhere alone."



OUTLINE.

1. Elijah's Power, v. 6-8.
 2. Elijah's Translation, v. 9-12.
 3. The Spirit of Elijah, v. 13-15.
- Time.—Probably between 892 and 890; the exact date is uncertain.
 Place.—The valley of the Jordan, not very far from Jericho.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Elijah's spirit on Elisha.—2 Kings 2, 1-8.
 Tu. Elijah's spirit on Elisha.—2 Kings 2, 9-15.
 W. The water healed.—2 Kings 2, 16-22.
 Th. Enoch translated.—Heb. 11, 1-6.
 F. Waiting for the Lord, Luke 12, 32-40.
 S. Parting words.—2 Tim. 4, 1-8.
 Su. Promise of the Spirit.—John 14, 8-17.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Elijah's Power, v. 6-8.
 What did Elijah request of Elisha?
 What did Elisha say to this request?
 Who here met Elisha?
 What did these men say to him?
 How did he reply to them?
 What request did Elijah again make?
 How did Elisha answer this time?
 Who stood watching their journey?
 What did Elijah do at the Jordan?
 What was the result of smiting the waters?
2. Elijah's Translation, v. 9-12.
 What did Elijah bid his companion to ask?
 What was Elisha's request?
 What did Elijah reply?
 What suddenly appeared as they journeyed?
 Where did Elijah go?
 What did Elisha say when Elijah disappeared?
 When and where was Elijah again seen? See Matt. 17, 3.
 What did Elisha do in token of grief?
3. The Spirit of Elijah, v. 13-15.
 What did he have that belonged to Elijah?
 What did he do with the mantle?
 What question did he ask?
 What was the result of smiting the waters?
 What Christian grace did he show in this act?
 What did the sons of the prophets say about Elijah?
 How did they show him honour?



ELIJAH'S TRANSLATION.

could hope to find the equal of her; an' it wouldn't have seemed right to bring another woman in to take her place, so to speak."

The expression on Ellen's face told of her sympathy, but before she could give it words Samuel Abner demanded her immediate attention.

Despite the antipathy of the Jones family for water, he had strayed into the line of gentle surf until the tiny waves were curling around his little bowed legs; and Ellen, not daring to venture in after him, ran to the very edge of the thin line of foam, where she stood begging the venturesome Samuel Abner to return, looking not unlike a motherly hen who, by an unfortunate combination of circumstances, has brought forth a brood of ducklings.

"Hold hard, little Ellen. I'll bring him ashore for you, though I never thought I'd raise a hand to take a Jones from the water."

And Captain Hiram plucked Samuel Abner from the seeming danger, depositing him high upon the gleaming sands with an admonitory shake which did not disturb the youngster in the slightest, although to Ellen it seemed unnecessarily harsh.

"Please don't hurt him, Captain Hiram!" she cried solicitously. "He is too young to know he ought not to go in the sea, and all take good care he don't do it again while he's with me."

Captain Stubbs looked furtively around an instant to assure himself there was no one in sight; and then, leaning over, quickly kissed the tiny girl on the cheek, straightening himself up an instant later as if ashamed of such a display of affectionate weakness.

"I allow it's this one that does most of the carin' in your family, young man."

"It don't make any difference who it is, so long as I'm goin' out in this vessel," Master Seabury replied carelessly, and Ellen said,—

"I must take the baby home before we start, of course. Will you tell me where he lives, Captain Hiram?"

"It's a long bit up the street, my child, an' there's no need of your goin' so far on account of him. I ain't over an' above favourable to babies; but you shall keep this one with you, even if he is a Jones."

"But his mother will be terribly worried if he doesn't come back soon."

"I'll answer for that part of it. So long as he is out of the way she won't turn a hair. Now then, my hearties, sit right down here while I get the Island Queen ready, for the tide is creepin' up on us jest as surely as is death."

(To be continued.)

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF THE TEN TRIBES.

LESSON VI.—AUGUST 7.

ELIJAH'S SPIRIT ON ELISHA.

2 Kings 2, 6-15. Memory verses, 11-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

How much more shall your heavens, Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?—Luke 11, 13.

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