

He had just left Julia Cassels. She had been clothed in lustrous silk and sparkling jewels. Amid the perfume and beauty of flowers, to the intoxicating strains of Chopin's waltzes, he had spoken softly to her of what "might have been" but for his unfortunate marriage; and she had looked the sympathy she still hesitated to express in words. His heart was on fire with his unholy love, when Grizelda, white, and full of sorrow, came to him. Nothing is so annoying and irritating to a man as tears. If any woman has been taught differently, let her abjure the fallacy soon as possible. If Grizelda had put on her richest robe, and assumed the stately manner so becoming to her she might have won the favour she asked. But her beauty was under a cloud, and her distracted air put him at once on the defensive. When she said, "Helen is dead! My sister is dead!" and then burst again into passionate weeping he resented the intrusion of death and disagreeable thoughts into his own ecstatic dreams of Julia and love.

"I am sorry it is Helen," he said bitterly. "If it had only been you!"

"Oh! I wish it had! I wish it had!"

"For once we perfectly agree."

"Walter, let me go! Let me go to father! He is heart-broken!"

"You would only make him worse. You are such a miserable, wretched creature. If a man were in the seventh heaven of delight, you would drag him down to where you lie grovelling all day. Go to your own apartments! I am weary of you."

"Then let me go to father? For God's sake let me go!"

"Go to your own apartments!"

The sight of her tears, her anguish, her despair, was to Maxwell what the sop was to the Great Murderer. The devil entered into him. He rang violently for Grizelda's maid, and, putting on his hat left the palace.

He had seen Peppo as he entered. When he passed again through the grim old portal, through which so much sin and sorrow had passed, the man was still smoking in the moonlight. Maxwell spoke to him, and Peppo rose, flung his cigarette away, and stood attentively.

"What is your name?"

"Peppo, milord."

"I have not seen you for two days."

"I have been about my business."

"Ah! what is your business?"

Peppo shrugged his shoulders expressively.

"Secret?"

"As the grave, milord," emphasizing the word *grave*.

"Why do you stay around my house so much?"

"I am waiting—perhaps milord might want me—besides, there is a pretty girl, whom—"

"Don't marry her. To marry is to put yourself in hell!"

Peppo shrugged his shoulders again.

"Perhaps; but there is a way out of that hell."

"If you can show me one, I will—"

"Shall we talk inside, milord? It is safer."

"They went in together. They went into Maxwell's private room, and they talked the night away—that is Maxwell talked. He was drinking brandy, and he soon felt its embroiling influence. He wanted Grizelda "put where he would never see her or hear of her again."

"There is one sure place," answered Peppo, casting his eyes expressively downward.

Maxwell was too cowardly to say the fatal words. He wanted her "put away safely." Peppo more bluntly explained the phrase. Maxwell still ignored the explanation; but the brandy having told upon his excited state he began to excuse himself, to cry a little over his cruel disappointment, to crave Peppo's sympathy for his unfortunate condition.

Peppo listened with scarcely repressed mockery. Maxwell's explanation about McNeil was perfectly unintelligible to him. As to Grizelda, he had formed, through Caterina, his own opinion of her. He bore the rambling story, with a sort of patience because he hoped to make the better terms for his patience. But as soon as money was named Maxwell arrested himself, and stared with stupid incredulity at the man.

"Five hundred pounds! It is ridiculous!" he answered. "Fifty pounds are enough."

"Milord has his choice. I can go to others with my tale. By *Bacchus*! to save may be better than to kill."

The words in a measure sobered Maxwell. Already, then, he was in the power of the villain he had called to himself. He said sulkily, "Very well. I will give you five hundred pounds—when it is done."

"Six hundred now, milord. A gentleman's word is not to be doubted for nothing. The money is also to be paid at the present; and I shall be at your order—when you call me."

Peppo was master now. He had stood up and dictated his terms in a manner which Maxwell found it impossible to resist or resent. The money was paid.

"I will have a receipt, Peppo."

"For what use? Would you dare show it? When you want me I shall be in waiting. Have I not been waiting for six weeks?"

He put the money in a dirty bag and went out with a bow which made Maxwell's face burn with anger. It was the greeting of a familiar—a comrade,

and it made him understand how low he had fallen.

But he did not blame himself at all. It was Grizelda! Her! Curse her—curse her! Oh, how he cursed her, and cursed the miserable letter of sympathy he had sent him about his dogs—"the beginning of all! the beginning of all!" he exclaimed passionately. But he might have looked further back, and seen himself chuckling with wicked delight over the vice of his dog and privately turning them loose at night to work his malicious pleasure on his unoffending neighbours.

CHAPTER XII.—GRIZELDA IS LOST.

It becomes a man if he has received aught grateful to his mind, if he can remember it is kindness that gives birth to kindness.

—Sophocles.

For the sower of the seed is assuredly the author of the whole harvest of mischief.

Thou who dost dwell alone;
Thou who dost know thine own;
Thou to whom all are known,
From the cradle to the grave,
Save, oh! save!

—Arnold.

It was near Christmas when Maxwell looked again to Peppo. Peppo had spoken as usual about the palace, but he had avoided any intelligence with its master; Maxwell perceived, therefore, that he would be compelled to make the first decided step. The interval between the infamous bargain and its completion was a last season of grace to him. But no influence was strong enough to combat the feeling of hate, daily growing to murder in his heart. Even the death of Helen, suggesting a double portion to Grizelda, was too weak. His love of Julia Cassels and his hate of his wife were more powerful motives than his love of money. Upon Christmas eve there was to be a grand *file* at an English gentleman's residence, four miles from Rome. Lord and Lady Maxwell had invitations to it. This was the opportunity Maxwell had been looking for. Among the crush of vehicles going there one more or less would never be particularly noticed.

He called Peppo with a glance, and again took him to his room. There was no civility between the men. They already understood each other.

"You have heard of the *file* at the Gigha villa?"

"I was thinking about it. The opportunity is good."

"How will you manage the affair?"

"Will miladi be with you?"

"Yes."

"It is known that she wears jewels. Magnificent! I will stop your carriage. I will put her into my carriage. It will be supposed she had been taken for her jewels. Eh?"

Maxwell cast a black look at his confederate villain. He understood that Peppo expected the jewels as a perquisite; and that the negotiation would be closed if he opposed the plan. He, therefore, affected to acquiesce.

"The rest."

"The next day I may be looked for and I shall be smoking in my usual place."

"And—she?"

"She will be safe. She will trouble you no more."

"The jewels!—they are family jewels."

"They will be safe also."

"You dare not sell them in Rome."

"Per *Bacchus*! I know that. I shall sell them to milord—in time."

"You are to be relied on?"

"As the hour. Both it and I are certain."

(To be continued.)

Sabbath School Work.

LESSON HELPS.

LESSON II. July 14, 1889.

THE SORROWFUL DEATH OF ELI.

I Sam. iv. 1-18.

COMMIT VERSES 17-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.—His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.—I Sam. iii. 13.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

We cannot keep the sin and escape the consequences.

DAILY READINGS.

M. I Sam. ii. 12-17.
Tw. I Sam. ii. 27-36.
W. I Sam. iv. 1-18.
Th. Ps. lxxviii. 56-64.
F. Deut. xxviii. 15-25
Sa. Prov. i. 20-33.
Su. Heb. xii. 1-13.

TIME.—B.C. 1114. About twenty years after the last lesson.

PLACE.—(1) Ebenezer, named from Samuel's victory 20 years later (I Sam. vii. 5-12). It was 15 miles west of Jerusalem, and 20 south-west of Shiloh. (2) Shiloh the capital, a few miles north of Jerusalem.

SAMUEL.—About 32 years old.

ELI.—Judge and priest for 40 years. Now 98 years old. He was a Levite and descendant of Aaron through Ithamar.

HOPHNI, "the fighter," and **PHINEHAS,** "the brazen-mouthed," were degenerate sons of Eli.

SAMSON, in another part of Israel, was just beginning his exploits, B.C. 1116-1096.

THE PHILISTINE OPPRESSION had lasted 20 years and continued 20 years longer (Judg. xiii. 1).

INTRODUCTION.—The fearful doom of Eli's sons revealed to Samuel was not fulfilled for 20 years. So much time was given for repentance, but the result was in preparation, and now the time had come.

result was in preparation, and now the time had come.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *The sword of Samuel:* this sentence belongs to the last chapter. It shows how wide Samuel's influence extended during the 20 years. *The Philistines:* a rich warlike nation on the west coast of Palestine. *Ebenezer:* see Place. *Aphak:* a place near Ebenezer. 3. *Let us fetch the ark:* thinking that God would protect the ark, even if with it he had to save them while still unrepentant. 4. *Which dwelleth between the cherubim:* Here God manifested his glory between the cherubim over the ark. *Hophni and Phinehas:* see above. By this plan they were brought into the battle to be slain. 10. *Into his tent:* i. e. home (Josh. xxii. 8). 11. *Ark of God taken:* a proof that God had departed from them. *Hophni and Phinehas:* stain the sign fulfilled, foretold by Samuel (ii. 34). 12. *Ran:* a professional runner, accomplishing his 15 miles in the hours of daylight remaining after the battle. A tradition of the Jews says it was Saul fleeing with the tables rescued from the ark. 13. *Seat:* a judgment seat or throne at the entrance of the city. It had a canopy over it, but no back to the seat. 18. *When he made mention of the ark:* this shows how Eli prized God and his religion above all personal possessions.

SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND SPECIAL REPORTS.—The character and sin of Eli.—The sin of his sons.—The character of the people.—The prophecies of punishment.—How long delayed and why.—The Philistines.—The first battle.—The second battle.—What the people expected from the presence of the ark.—Why they were disappointed.—Eli's death.

QUESTIONS.

REVIEW.—Tell the story of Samuel's early life. What did he do at the Tabernacle? What call came to him one night? What was revealed to him?

INTRODUCTION.—Point out the places on the map. What age of Israel are we studying? What famous men lived at this time in Judah?

SUBJECT. SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

I. THE SIN OF ELI'S SONS.—What were the names of Eli's sons? What was their position in the temple service? What kind of men were they? (ii. 12-17.) What effect did their crimes have upon the religious life of the people? (ii. 17.) Against what good influences did they go on in sin? By whom were they warned? (ii. 23, 25, 27.) What is said of disobedient children? (Deut. xxi. 18-21; Prov. xx. 20; 30; 17.)

II. THE SIN OF ELI.—What hints do you find in this story of the good character of Eli? (i. 17; 3, 6, 18, iv. 18.) What was his great fault? (ii. 29; iii. 13.) Did this excuse his sons? Why are the sins of good men recorded in the Bible.

III. THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE.—How long had the people been under judges? (Over 300 years.) What shows their character at this time? (Judg. xiii. 1.) Into what sin were they led by Hophni and Phinehas? (ii. 17.) What does Jeremiah say? (Jer. vii. 12.) What shows that they had fallen into idolatry? (Ps. lxxviii. 57, 58.)

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE. (I. 1-10.) Who were oppressing the Israelites at this time? (v. 1, Judg. xiii. 1.) How long had this oppression continued? Should this have led the people to repentance? (Deut. viii. 2; Ezek. xviii. 30; Chron. vii. 14.) Does God love to punish? (Ezek. xviii. 30-32.) Where was a great battle fought? (vs. 1, 2.) What did the Israelites now do in order to gain the victory? Was this of any use so long as they did not repent? Can any form or holy place save us, unless we obtain new hearts by faith? Relate the story of the reception of the ark in camp? What was the result of the next day's battle? What similar event took place twelve centuries later for the same reason? (Matt. xxiv. 1, 2.) What great lesson do you learn from this?

V. THE PUNISHMENT OF ELI'S SONS. (v. 11.)—How did the priests Hophni and Phinehas come to be in the battle? What became of them? When was this foretold? (ii. 34.) Had they had abundant opportunity to repent? What is said of such persons? (Prov. i. 20-32.) Is this as true now as then? Is there any promise of good for disobedient children?

VI. THE DEATH OF ELI. (vs. 12-18.)—Who brought the news of the battle to Shiloh? How far? What was Eli doing when the messenger came? How did he learn the news? What was the effect upon him? What lesson do you learn from the death of Eli?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. Children may grow up bad amid good influences.

II. In disorderly families both parents and children are usually to blame.

III. God gives abundant time for repentance.

IV. The most sacred religious forms will not save us without the spirit of religion.

V. God cares more for the worshipper than for the temple.

VI. The punishment of sin will come in due time.

VII. There is no escape but by forsaking sin.

VIII. Disobedience to parents can only bring disaster and ruin.

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