

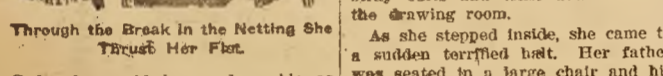


A New Romance of the Storm Country

repeated her summons in nervous little rap-taps that penetrated Dr. John's sound slumber. When he recognized her, opened the door and noticed how white she was, he drew her hastily to him and shut the door.

Between chattering teeth she began to tell him the dreadful tale. As she went on with the story the listener's face grew much concerned.

"Somebody's tried to poison him," he cried, taking a long breath. "My



Through the Break in the Netting She Gazed Her Fear

God, who could be so damnable, as that? Come, let me get the stuff."

Together they stole back to Tommie's room, and Dr. John carried away the medicine with him, leaving Tony with a caution not to speak of the matter to his brother. Spitting on his clothes, John went outside and made a tour of the house. It wasn't difficult to find the place where the man had fallen, but there was no sign of him anywhere.

Tommie did not sleep at all that night. But very early in the morning she arose and slipped into Dr. Paul's room and put back the medicine Dr. John had given her.

During the morning Dr. John Pendlehaven softly entered her room. He came forward, his hands outstretched, his face white and very grave.

"Darling little girl," he whispered, with much emotion. "You have saved my brother's life. The villain, whoever he was, put the ranklest kind of poison in it. He must have gotten it from some doctor, for no druggist would have sold it to him."

"Mebbe he's dead," replied Tony gently, with an expression of awe. "It was a long while he lay."

"No, he got away! I've hunted the place over for him. Would you know him again if you saw him?"

"Sure," replied Tony, nodding, but she said no more. So tell him who the man was would mean to break the solemn oath she had made on the Christ to her mother.

A timid knock brought the conversation to a close. Mrs. Curtis was at the threshold when Pendlehaven opened the door.

"I've been looking the house over for you, John," she began. "Boy's got a headache. He said for you not to bother to come to him, but to give me something to make him sleep."

"Is he drunk?" demanded Pendlehaven.

Mrs. Curtis began to cry.

"John, how unkind!" she sniffled from the haven of her handkerchief. "The moment the child complains everybody accuses him of drinking. No, of course, he isn't drunk!"

For many days Reginald Curtis tossed fitfully in bed, tortured by the thought that the world never cease being haunted by Tony Devon's spirit. He dared not get up, for he was covered with bruises from his fall, and added to his misery, he imagined every time the door opened he was going to be arrested. But no such thing happened, and one afternoon when Dr. John was gone and his mother and Katherine were shopping downstairs, he crawled out of bed and made his way softly from the house.

Uriah Devon had ventured back to the Rhinole with his canal boat, so when Reginald appeared aboard her, she was met with a growl.

"Where in h—l you been all this time, Reg?" he demanded in a sinister tone.

Reggie shuddered, as he sank down on the bench.

"I'm going crazy," he muttered. "I've been awful sick."

"You mean just drunk, don't you? Didn't you try to do what I told you to?"

The boy nodded and shivered again. "I sure did, but—"

"But what?" cried Devon.

"I put the stuff in the medicine all right, but something happened." Reginald's voice was low and wavering as he finished the statement.

"What happened?" repeated Devon hoarsely. "Don't sit there like a— food and look as if you'd swallowed a live eel."

"I was going to slip back from the window sill to the tree," faltered Reggie, "and Tony's ghost rose up before me and shoved me flat on the ledge and down to the ground!"

Uriah's eyes almost protruded from his head. Then a slow smile ran around his lips.

"Hats," he ejaculated huskily. "Hats, you fool! There ain't such things as ghosts!"

"Yes, there is, Devon," insisted Reg-

Tommie had heard the words and knew they were true. If she could get upstairs with Doctor Paul and then lock the door, no one would dare venture after her.

Phillip got out of his chair, but Doctor John put him back into it again.

"Wait," he whispered into the boy's ear.

"I want to tell you, everyone," went on Tony, fiercely, "that I'll swear 'til I die my mother—"

Paul Pendlehaven took the speaker by the shoulders and forced her face up to his.

"This woman, here, your mother," and he waved his arm toward Mrs. Devon, "says you didn't have that gun in your hand, and it's loaded to the brim now. She didn't use it, either."

Reggie's jaw dropped. He made a dash for the door, as Mrs. Curtis screamed. Doctor John caught the fleeing boy and wheeled him around to face his horror-stricken mother.

"It's a lie! I didn't," he mumbled. "Where'd I get a gun to shoot anyone? This woman did it herself. I saw her."

"Then you were here," cried Phillip. Mrs. Curtis acted as if she were going to faint, but, as no one paid any attention to her, she slumped back beside her daughter, who turned away contemptuously.

"That settles one question," commented Doctor Paul, grimly. "You shot Devon, Reggie," and the boy sank into a chair beside his mother. "Now," continued the doctor, "who robbed the safe?"

To know that her mother hadn't done the shooting relieved but one of Tommie's worries. Uriah wasn't hurt much anyway, but the doctor's question brought vividly to her mind another danger, not a whit less serious. Edith was certainly involved in looting the safe!

"I told you once," Tony began wearily.

"Child," interposed Doctor Paul, "you'll shield no one else. I shudder to think what might have happened if your mother hadn't come here for her husband's gun."

His tones were low and stern, though much moved.

His eye caught sight of the black bag at the same time his brother's did. Doctor John opened it and, amid an appalling silence, took box after box out of it.

"Plain stealing," he growled, and then he stared at Mrs. Devon in open-mouthed amazement. "What'd you bring 'em back for?" he questioned.

Edith paid no attention to Doctor John's query but addressed her husband.

"Uriah, now you vent and done it again!" She turned to Doctor Paul. "You got everything back, give me my man. He didn't know what he was doin', sir."

"Then he'll be taught a lesson, the same as Reginald will, madam," rejoined the doctor. "Ever since your daughter came to us, she's been in dread of her husband, her father. Once he was sent away, and she had peace. This time he won't come back in a hurry."

Doctor John reached into the drawer of the table near him and produced the roll of bills that Phillip had found on Devon the night before.

"How about this, you?" he inquired of Devon. "Where'd this come from before it was in your pocket? While we're at it, we might as well clear up everything."

The center of interest, Uriah Devon shifted uneasily in his chair. He had discovered the loss of the money but had not dared to make any inquiry about it. Hastily he ran over the situation, and it appeared to him as hopeless as possible, but five thousand dollars was a good thing for a man to have, whatever his position. If Mrs. Curtis claimed the money, her connection with him would come out, and that might make things easier for him. If she didn't, he'd have the cash anyway.

"That's mine, mister," he grunted, "and I didn't steal it, neither. Give it to me."

The same considerations had been chasing through Mrs. Curtis' mind, and in the general cataclysm that she saw before her, she concluded the money might be very necessary for her and her children.

"Don't let him have it, John," she screamed. "It's mine. Give it to me!"

Doctor John arose and stood between Uriah and Mrs. Curtis, holding the roll of bills in his hand. Amidst the closest attention of the rest of the group, he looked from one to the other, while the claimants indulged in a dispute.

"You give it to me, didn't you, ma'am?" asked Uriah, roughly. "Didn't you?"

"Yes, I suppose I did," she acknowledged, "but you haven't done what you said you would."

"Twissn't my fault," Uriah grumbled. "If that fool of a son of yours hadn't butted in and shot me, I'd taken Tony like I bargained to."

Then Doctor Paul interposed, and a few questions, sternly put and cut-generally answered, discovered the whole conspiracy between Mrs. Curtis, her children, and Uriah Devon.

John Pendlehaven, whose anger had been steadily rising, suddenly stepped forward and brushed his brother aside.

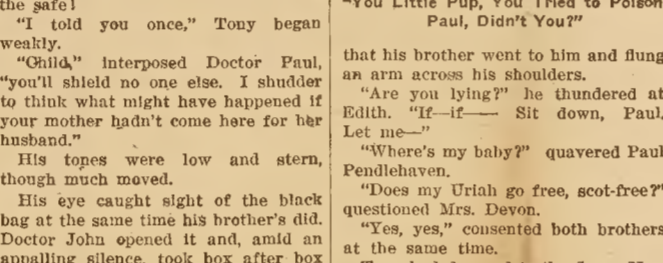
"I'll take charge of this now, Paul," he stated. "You're too d—d easy. Here's where your treacherous snakes go to jail," he included Uriah and the Curtises in a sweep of his hand. "Every one of you!" He turned savagely upon Reginald. "You little pup," he charged swiftly, "you tried to poison Paul, didn't you?" He crossed to his side and towered over him with upraised fist. "Own up, d—n you. Didn't you?"

Reginald cowered, slipped out of his chair and attempted to shield himself in Mrs. Curtis' arms, who leaned protectively over him.

"I—was drunk," he excused himself, "and I thought," he whispered to his mother, "I thought you wanted me to."

Then Edith projected herself into the excitement again. She glanced at Uriah, her eyes melting with tenderness, arose and stood looking at the Pendlehaven brothers.

"Mr. Paul," she said in a low voice, "don't you remember me?"



Paul looked her over with no sign of recognition, and his brother turned away from Reginald to observe this new development.

"No," said Paul, and he shook his head.

"Never mind! That don't matter!" was the reply, "but I'll make a dicker with you. You give me my man for keeps, and I'll give you your girl, Caroline. I'm Edith Mindill!"

You could have heard a pin drop, so deep was the silence. All were looking at the haggard woman, facing Paul Pendlehaven, who was rising unsteadily.

"Give me my man," she repeated. "Don't send 'im to jail, and I'll give you your girl."

Doctor Paul had become so white

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
Sunday School Lesson

By REV. P. B. FITZGERALD, D. D.,
Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
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LESSON FOR AUGUST 7
PAUL IN CYPRUS AND IN ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 13:1-52.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 13.
REFERENCE MATERIAL.—Matt. 13:31-33; 23:13-33; Mark 16:7; Luke 24:46, 47.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Adventures of Paul and Barnabas.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Saul Silences a Sorcerer.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Paul Begins His Missionary Travels.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Paul Becomes a Missionary.

This marks the beginning of foreign missions as the deliberately planned enterprise of the church.

I. The Gifts of the Church at Antioch (v. 1).

Young as Antioch, the new religious center, was, she had prophets and teachers. Such are essential to church life. Indeed, they are never absent from the true church. In Ephesians 4:8-12 Paul says that when Christ ascended He gave gifts unto men for the purpose of perfecting the saints unto the work of the ministry.

II. Barnabas and Saul Sent Forth (vv. 2-3).

While the five ministers were praying and fasting, the Spirit of God commanded them to send forth Barnabas and Saul. The work of evangelizing the world was laid so heavily upon those men that they refrained from eating in order to seek the will of the Lord in prayer. This is the kind of fasting that needs God's approval. From the fact that they were directed to send forth those whom the Spirit called, we learn that the real call to Christ's service comes from the Spirit. The Spirit calls and the church seconds the motion by sending those who are called. They sent the very best men from the church at Antioch.

III. Preaching the Word of God in Cyprus (vv. 4-12).

We are not told as to why they first went to Cyprus, but we infer that it was because it was the home of Barnabas. It is most natural that those who have heard good news should go with it first to their kindred and friends. As they went forth they preached the Word of God; not civic righteousness, current history, philosophy, etc. The great need today is Spirit-called and Spirit-filled men preaching God's Word.

IV. Withstood by Elymas the Sorcerer (vv. 13-16).

When Barnabas and Saul by invitation were telling Sergius Paulus of the Word of God, Elymas maliciously sought to turn his mind from the faith. This is the first obstacle they encountered. This opposer is the same one who came to Adam in Eden and to Jesus in the wilderness. He is the enemy of God and man. He now seeks to bar the gospel as it enters upon its career of the conversion of the heathen. Saul denounced him in the most scathing terms, calling him the child of the devil, full of craft and villainy, and pronounced him the enemy of all righteousness, accusing him of perverting the right ways of the Lord.

Happily, the deputy heeded Saul's teaching and believed the gospel. It was in this connection that Saul's name was changed to Paul.

V. In the Synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia (vv. 17, 18).

From Paphos Paul and Barnabas went northward to Berea. From Berea they went into Antioch in Pisidia, where they entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Though he was sent to the Gentiles he does not depart from the order of beginning with the Jews. After the usual reading of the Scriptures, upon the invitation of the rulers, Paul delivered the discourse recorded in verses 17-41. This sermon is worthy of careful study. It consists of four parts: (1) Historical (vv. 17-23); apologetic (vv. 24-27); (2) doctrinal (vv. 28, 29); (3) practical (vv. 40, 41). It sets forth the missionary message for all times and lands. Its essence should ever be the same. In this sermon he presented the glorified and risen Christ as the Savior from sin, basing his proof upon the testimony of living witnesses and the inspired Word.

VI. The Effect of the Sermon (vv. 42-52).

Many of the Jews and proselytes requested them to speak to them again. Almost the whole city came to hear the Word of God the next Sabbath. This great crowd incited the jealousy of the Jews. This jealousy could not long be restrained; it broke out in open opposition. This opposition was in turn answered by Paul's rejection of them and turning to the Gentiles.

Learn the True Wisdom.

Learn, O sinner, the true wisdom. See you hush with me with roses, like the burning bush of Moses. Listen, and thou shalt hear, if thy soul be not deaf, how from out it, soft and clear, speaks to thee the Lord Almighty.—Hail.

A Question of Right.

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God, to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.—Acts 4:19.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator upon the estate of the late Albert Whitfield, late of Orange county, North Carolina, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to settle same at once and all persons having claims against said estate will present them to the undersigned properly authenticated on or before July 9, 1922 or this notice will be plead in bar their recovery.

This July 9, 1921.

T. J. WHITEFIELD, Adm'r.

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