

The Yellow Letter

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by William Johnston Illustrations by V.L. Barnes

SYNOPSIS.

Harding Kent calls on Louise Farriah to propose marriage and finds the house in great excitement over the attempted suicide of her sister Katharine Kent...

where I had been sitting, was the body of a woman. "Other suicides, other suicides"...

CHAPTER IX.

A New Mystery.

I was up with the dawn the next morning and down-stairs to find a train schedule. The only thought in my mind was that I must go to Louise at once...

"What possible reason could have influenced her to make such a strange request?" I concluded.

"You don't understand!" I cried. "Louise is not the ordinary flighty girl. She has the finest, best-balanced mind of any woman I ever knew..."

"She didn't want nobody to know who she was, I guess," he said after a hasty examination.

"I don't understand!" I cried. "Louise is not the ordinary flighty girl. She has the finest, best-balanced mind of any woman I ever knew..."

"I've got to go over to the arsenal and report this and send for the wagon. Will you wait till I come back?"

"What would you advise?" "I'd go on," said Davis laconically, as he lighted another cigarette.

"I am going to town on the first train," I said decisively. "I shall do nothing until I have seen her."

"And I shall go on with the investigation," said Davis with that exasperating smile of his.

"It was some one I had seen before. There was something reminiscent in the broad shoulders, in the walk. It was some one I knew, or ought to have recognized, yet who it was or...

"I dismissed him there and strolled aimlessly into the park. I would wait until ten o'clock before I tried to see Louise. Still pondering the situation, I strolled along one of the park walks and flung myself on a bench by the little lake where the swan boats are...

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"How long I sat there I do not know. I was so deep in thought that there was neither sight in my eyes nor hearing in my ears. Yet the eyes will not be denied their rights. A feeling came over me that some part of my brain was trying to tell me something. It came more and more forcefully. My eyes were seeing something which they were trying to compel me to notice.

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phrases from a letter that had brought disappointment to a loving woman. In all Hellhood this suicide had no connection with the others. But why, then, the yellow paper?

"So intent was I on my thoughts that I did not observe the return of the policeman until I heard his voice. "What have you got there?"

"There was suspicion in his tone—the natural suspicion of the representative of the law. It was on the tip of my tongue to say: "Another yellow letter."

For once prudence restrained me. I recalled how my too hasty speech at the coroner's inquest had led me into trouble. I could hardly expect a twelve-hundred-dollar policeman to assist in solving the mystery that was still perplexing Davis.

"Just some scraps of paper," I said carelessly. "After you had gone I noticed that she was clutching a bit of paper in one hand. I searched around the lake to see if I could find more. I found these. It is evidently part of a letter, but the ink has run so you can make nothing out of them."

"Let's see them." I handed him all of them. "This," I explained, "I found in her hand and the others were over there under those bushes."

"One by one the policeman examined them, turning them carefully over and over. "There's nothing to them," he finally announced. "The wagon will be here in a minute. I don't suppose you'll want to be claiming any credit for finding the body?"

I had feared that he would insist on my accompanying him to testify to its finding. It was quite a relief to hear him take this view of it. "Of course not," I answered hastily. "Then," said he with utmost candor, "you might as well beat it. It doesn't do a cop no good to have other people finding things on his post. If you ain't here when the wagon comes, there ain't nobody to say it wasn't me that found the body. I want to thank you, though, for coming and telling me about it. There's a lot of fools would have gone and telephoned the arsenal and then I'd be on the carpet for not covering my post properly."

I was glad indeed of the opportunity to get away. It was nearing ten o'clock. My trousers and shoes were in such condition that I wanted to get to my apartments for a change before seeing Louise. I hastened to the park entrance and hailed a taxi. By the time I left my rooms and reached the Farriah home it was ten minutes after ten.

As my taxi turned into the street I saw another one stop before the Farriah door. At first I thought it must be the doctor or one of his assistants, but as the front door closed behind the tall figure of a man who had been admitted to the house I realized that...

where I had seen him I could not at the moment recall. I was not three minutes behind him in reaching the door. Though the other visitor had been admitted at once, there was no immediate response to my ring. I waited a while and rang again. It seemed minutes before any one answered, then one of the maids opened the door a trifle and peered out.

"Mr. Kent to see Miss Louise," I said. To my great amazement she did not open the door to me, but still holding it just barely enough to enable her to talk to me, said: "I'm sorry, but I have orders to admit no one to the house."

"Of course, I understand that you have your orders, but please tell Miss Louise that Mr. Kent is here." "I'll tell her, if you wish," she said doubtfully, carefully closing the door before she went on the mission.

The shutting of the door in my face gave me an odd sense of desolation. It seemed as if I were being shut out of the life of the woman I loved. Yet on second thought I smiled at my perturbation. The maid was only carrying out a necessary order. As soon as Louise knew I was there she would come running to the door herself. In a minute she would be folded in my arms and all misunderstanding would be cleared away.

"I had expected to see Louise herself behind it, but it was the same maid. This time she held the door hardy as wide as before. "I'm sorry, sir, she said, "but Miss Louise says she can not see you now." "What?" I gasped.

She repeated her message while I stood there dazed. There must be some mistake. Louise must have misunderstood the name. "Did you tell her it was Mr. Kent?" "Yes, sir, I told her."

"What did she say?" "She said she could not see you or any one else now."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

What a Pity! A member of the committee of a certain swimming club is very unpopular with his colleagues. Until recently the fact did not appear to trouble him greatly. On the eve of some aquatic sports, however, he made a startling discovery, and at once brought the matter before his fellow-members.

"I have discovered a dastardly plot," he began. "Certain of the competitors have conspired to throw me in the river."



I Gently Pressed Buck the Stiffening Fingers.

Ever See a Stout Postman? In London, for instance, Carriers Walk Over Sixteen Miles Carrying Forty Pounds.

THE CONFERENCE AT HIGH POINT CLOSES

THE APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS CHARGES FOR COMING YEAR ANNOUNCED.

MANY CHANGES ARE MADE

Methodist Session Adjourned After Much Important Work Had Been Done—Church Paper Takes Up Good Part of Time of Closing Day.

High Point.—The Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which has been in session here several days adjourned Monday. The reading of the appointments answers the forty-ninth and last of the minute questions, "Where are the preachers stationed this year?" and immediately after Bishop Collins Denny concluded the reading of the appointments, he pronounced the benediction and the Conference adjourned.

The appointments for this year are as follows: Charlotte District.—J. R. Scroggs, presiding elder; Ansonville, L. L. Smith; Charlotte, Belmont, J. H. Bradley; Charlotte, Brevard Street, L. A. Falls; Charlotte, Calvary, R. S. Howie; Charlotte, Chadwick and Seversville, N. R. Richardson; Charlotte, Dilworth and Big Spring, J. O. Irwin; Charlotte, Duncan Memorial, to be supplied; North Charlotte, W. B. Davis; Trinity, T. F. Marr; Tryon Street, E. K. McLarty; W. L. Nicholson, superintendent; Lilesville, T. C. Jordan; Marshville, A. L. Aycock; Matthews, S. T. Barber; Monroe, Central, J. H. Weaver; North Monroe, R. H. Kennington; Morven Circuit, J. E. Woolsey; Mount Zion, Z. Paris; Pineville, W. L. Sherrill; Polkton, G. C. Brinckman; Prospect, S. E. Richardson; Unionville, M. T. Steele; Wadesboro, G. D. Herman; Waxhaw, W. F. Sandford; Weddington, Seymour Taylor; Principal Southern Industrial Institute, J. A. Baldwin; Missionary to Japan, S. A. Stewart; Missionary to Japan, N. S. Ogburn; Derita, P. L. Terrell.

Asheville District.—C. A. Wood, presiding elder; Asheville, Bethel, J. W. Ingle; Asheville, Central, J. C. Rowe; Asheville, Haywood Street, W. A. Newell; Asheville, North, W. E. Poguey; Biltmore and Mt. Pleasant, J. W. Campbell; Black Mountain, R. E. Hunt; Brevard, L. D. Thompson; Brevard Circuit, C. M. Carpenter, supply; Fairview, T. A. Groce; Elk Mountain, W. R. Shelton; Hendersonville, A. L. Stanford; Hendersonville Circuit, A. L. Latham; Hot Springs, R. N. Hasty; Leicester, J. H. Green; Marshall, E. B. Stabler; Mars Hill, L. H. Griffith; Mills River, J. C. Postell; Spring Creek, E. E. Wellons, supply; Sulphur Springs, J. P. Bross; Swannanoa, R. F. Huneycutt; Tryon and Saluda, R. L. Ferguson; Walnut Circuit, A. C. Gibbs; Weaverville, F. A. Hawley; Weaverville Circuit, J. R. Warren; West Asheville, Z. E. Barnhardt; vice president Weaverville College, W. B. West; Missionary to Cuba, R. J. Parker.

Greensboro District.—G. T. Rowe, presiding elder; Asheboro Station, J. E. Thompson; Asheboro Circuit, L. T. Henderson, supply; Coleridge Circuit, R. L. Melton; Deep River, J. D. Gibson; Denton, J. A. Holmes, supply; Greensboro Circuit, F. L. Townsland; Greensboro, Centenary, R. D. Sherrill; Greensboro, Spring Garden, W. E. Abernethy; Greensboro, Walnut Street and Caraway Memorial, G. H. Christenberry; Greensboro, West Market Street, C. W. Byrd; West Greensboro Circuit, W. L. Dawson; High Point, South Main Street, H. C. Byrum; High Point, Washington Street, J. H. Barnhardt; Gibsonville, W. S. Hales; Pleasant Garden, J. A. Sharp; Ransom and Franklinville, O. P. Ader; Randolph and Naomi, R. A. Taylor; Randolph, A. S. Raper; Reidsville, W. F. Worble; Ruffin, L. P. Bogie; Uwharrie, A. T. Bell; Wentworth, A. J. Burrus; Editor North Carolina Christian Advocate, H. M. Blair; secretary and treasurer Greensboro Female College, W. M. Curtis; Missionary to Korea, J. R. Moore; State Sunday school secretary, J. W. Long.

Mount Airy District.—R. M. Taylor, presiding elder; Danbury, T. J. Folger; Dobson, J. M. Price; Elkin Station, R. G. Tuttle; Jonesville, Z. V. Johnston; Leaksville, J. H. West; Madison and Stoneville, A. R. Surratt; Mount Airy Station, W. H. Willis; Mount Airy Circuit, C. R. Allison; Mountain, J. H. Vestal, supply; Rural Hall, J. M. Folger; Spray and Draper, J. P. Hippy; Stokesdale, G. W. Williams; Summerfield, T. B. Johnson; Walnut Cove, J. H. Brendell; Yadkinville, J. T. Stover.

Morgantown District.—J. E. Gay, presiding elder; Bald Creek, W. L. Edwards; Broad River, J. E. Wamack; Burnsville, W. M. Smith; Cliffsdale, A. C. Swafford; Connelly Springs, E. J. Poe; Forest City, J. F. Moser; Green River, J. C. Richardson; Henrietta, J. P. Armstrong; Huntville, R. F. Mock; Marion, Ira Irvin; McDowell, O. F. Routh; Micoville, H. H. Mitchell, supply; Morgantown Station, D. Atkins; Morgantown Circuit, H. L. Powell; North Catawba, J. L. Smith, supply; Old Fort, R. L. Doggett; Rutherford-

ton, Albert Sherrill; Spruce Pine and Bakersville, J. P. Morris, supply; Table Rock, Elmer Simpson; Thermal City, F. W. Dibble; Professor Rutherford College, E. K. Creel.

North Wilkesboro District.—M. H. Vestal, presiding elder; Avery, J. W. Hall, supply; Boone, J. F. Starnes, J. M. Downum, junior preacher; Croston, D. C. Ballard; Elk Park, to be supplied, W. M. Bagby, supernumerary; Helton, E. E. Yates; Jefferson, H. V. Clark; Laurel Springs, S. W. Brown; North Wilkesboro Station, Parker Holmes; North Wilkesboro Circuit, J. E. McSwain; Sparta, T. J. Mook; Watauga, I. Hickman; Wilkesboro Station, A. P. Ratledge; Wilkes Circuit, J. G. W. Holloway; Missionary to Japan, W. A. Wilson.

Salisbury District.—W. R. Ware, presiding elder; Albemarle, J. P. Rogers, C. M. Gentry, supernumerary; Albemarle Circuit, P. W. Tucker; Bethel and Big Lick, R. K. Brady; China Grove, H. H. Robbins; Concord, Central, Harold Turner; Concord, Forest Hill, W. M. Robbins; Concord, Epworth, G. G. Harley; Concord, West Ford, J. M. Ridenhour, supply; West Concord, G. A. B. Holderby; Concord Circuit, W. T. Albright; Cottonville, S. S. Higgins; Gold Hill, R. L. Forbis, supply; Kannapolis, W. B. Shinn; Mr. Pleasant, C. F. Sherrill; New London, S. L. Owen, supply; Norwood, J. W. Clegg; Salem, T/S Ellington; Salisbury, First Church, J. W. Moore; Salisbury, Holmes New Memorial, J. P. Lanning; Salisbury, South Main, G. A. Stamper and A. H. Whitner, supernumerary; Salisbury Circuit, E. M. Avett; Spencer Station, H. C. Sprinkle; East Spencer and North Main, C. E. Steadman; Woodleaf, James Wilson.

Shelby District.—S. B. Turrentine, presiding elder; Belwood, W. V. Huneycutt; H. G. Stamey, supernumerary; Bessemer City, R. H. Rhinehart; Cherryville, T. W. Ussery; J. F. Harrelson, junior preacher; Crouse, W. M. Boring; Gastonia, Main Street, J. E. Abernethy; Gastonia, Ozark and West Gastonia, N. C. Williams, supply; King's Mountain and El Bethel, M. B. Clegg; Lincolnton Station, T. J. Rodgers; Lincoln Circuit, J. H. Robertson; Lowell and Dallas, N. M. Modlin; Lowesville, J. W. Strider; McAdenville, B. F. Fincher; Mountain Island, D. W. Brown; Mount Holly and Belmont, J. A. Bowles; Faison, J. P. Davis; Shelby, Central, E. E. Williamson, R. M. Hoyle, supernumerary; Shelby Circuit, L. E. Stacy; South Shelby and Sharon, L. F. Brothers; South Fork, W. S. Cherry; Stanley Creek, E. N. Crowder.

Statesville District.—L. T. Mann, presiding elder; Alexander, M. T. Smathers; Catawba, Beverly Wilson; Cool Spring, J. J. Edwards; Davidson, C. M. Campbell; Granite Falls and Hudson, D. P. Carr; Hickory Station, D. M. Litaker; Hickory Circuit, J. P. Hornbuckle; Iredell, P. H. Brittain; Lenoir Station, C. M. Piekens; Lenoir Circuit, C. H. Curtis; Maiden, J. W. Kennedy; Mooresville Station, C. S. Kirkpatrick; Mooresville Circuit, E. M. Biles; North Lenoir, J. C. Keever; Rhodhiss, G. W. Pink, supply; Rock Springs, T. E. Wag; South Lenoir and Valmead, C. E. Dupont; Statesville, Broad Street, J. F. Kirk; Statesville, Race Street, J. J. Eads; Statesville Circuit, J. C. Mock; Stony Point, D. S. Richardson; Troutman, C. L. McCain; President Davenport College, J. B. Craven; Conference missionary, H. K. Boyer; Conference missionary evangelist, D. H. Coman.

Waynesville District.—L. T. Cordell, presiding elder; Andrews, J. J. Barker; Bryson City and Whittier, J. W. Williams; James Occumma, supply; Bethel Circuit, T. S. Coble; Canton, B. F. Hargett; Clyde, W. C. Jones; Dillsboro and Sylva, W. O. Davis; C. H. Neal, supply; Fines Creek, J. A. Marr; Franklin Station, M. H. Tuttle; Franklin Circuit, D. P. Walters; Glenville, F. O. Dryman; Hayesville, B. M. Jackson; Haywood, R. C. Kirk; Judson, J. F. Uary; Jonathan, J. A. Fry; Macon Circuit, J. L. Teague; Murphy Station, H. H. Jordan; Murphy Circuit, W. I. Hughes; Waynesville Station, M. F. Moore; Wester, D. R. Profit, L. B. Abernethy, junior preacher; Missionary to Cuba, M. B. Stokes.

Winston District.—P. T. Durham, presiding elder; Advance, J. A. J. Farrington; Coolemeec, C. M. Short; Davidson Circuit, J. T. Ratledge; Davis Circuit, B. A. York; Farmington, J. B. Taber; Forsyth, T. W. Vick; Jackson Hill, P. L. Shore; Kernersville, C. P. Godpe; Lewsville, A. G. Loftin; Lexington, A. W. Plyler; Linwood, W. F. Elliott; Mocksville, E. W. Fox; Thomsville, Main Street, R. M. Courtney; Thomsville Circuit, P. E. Parker; Walkertown, O. J. Jones; Winston, Burkhead, W. L. Hutchins; Winston, Centenary, E. L. Bain; Winston, Salem Grace and Liberty, R. E. Atkinson; Winston, Southside and Salem, J. S. Hyatt; Winston, West End, W. A. Lambeth; Field agent Children's Home, W. O. Goode; Missionary to Cuba, H. W. Baker; Student Vanderbilt University, J. C. Harmon.

Transferred.—L. W. Collins to North Georgia Conference; L. A. Palmer and O. I. Hinson to Southwest Missouri Conference; T. E. Weaver to Florida Conference; B. Margeson to Arkansas Conference; E. C. Glenn to North Carolina Conference.

E. A. Cole of Charlotte was elected Conference lay reader for the coming year. The trains leaving High Point Monday evening were crowded with members of the Conference and visitors who were returning to their homes. The preachers who have received new appointments will begin their work within the next two weeks.

To Serve Murder Sentences. Greensboro.—Sheriff Hanes of Surry county was in Greensboro recently on route to Raleigh with two prisoners to serve five and three-year terms for murder. One of the prisoners was a 19-year-old girl who was sentenced to serve three years for the murder of Jerry Willard of Mount Airy; the other a middle-aged man who is to serve 15 years for the murder of Strander Cooke, a land owner of Surry county. The girl was Minnie Humphries and in the station here she talked freely to people.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. BELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) LESSON FOR DECEMBER, 8

THE CHILD IN THE MIDST.

LESSON TEXT.—Matthew 18:1-14. GOLDEN TEXT.—"In heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."—Matthew 18:10 R. V.

Like two mighty mountain peaks there stand before us in this lesson two tremendously vital lessons. The first and the foremost is that of discipleship as suggested by the question in verse one, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom?" And the second lesson is that of Christ's attitude towards children. Jesus again reveals himself as the world's greatest teacher. He teaches by example—setting a child before them, and by exhortation, "Except ye become as children," by contrast, etc.

The very form of the disciples' question revealed their coarse ambition for power and clearly indicated that they were as yet far from comprehending the principles of his kingdom. One of the most insidious temptations that comes to the Christian worker is the ambitious desire for place and power. It is hard to reconcile church politics with the principles of the kingdom of God. Jesus answers their question by the use of objective teaching that always has such an advantage over the purely metaphysical method of answering such a question. Placing a child in their midst he answered in the words found in verse two of the lesson.

What He Meant. The word "verily" is tremendous with emphasis. "I say," again reveals his authority to answer. "Except ye turn," what does he mean? To become childlike? No, but to become childlike; there is a vast deal of difference. There the child stands, trustful, obedient, submissive, unselfish, pure, potential, imperfect, ready to receive impressions as wax and as tenacious to retain those impressions as granite. Pride, self-confidence, disobedience, selfishness, impurity, assumed perfectness, and an unwillingness to learn will effectually keep us out of the kingdom of heaven.

What a rebuke his answer implied, viz., not who is greatest but rather, "are you sure you are really in the kingdom?" The true disciple who really comprehends the essence of Christ's teaching is far less concerned with his rank in the kingdom than he is to "know him" and thus make sure of a place in the kingdom. Ever after this, when wrong ambitions arose, these disciples must have recalled that sweet child and Jesus' saying, "be like that."

Does this lesson then teach us that all children are by nature children of the kingdom? Hardly, though we certainly do not believe that a child dying in infancy is lost. Rather we incline to the belief that they have that gift of teachableness and trust that fits them to "enter" (v. 3) the kingdom (see John 3:6). Therefore, the added significance of verse six. The responsibility of parents and teachers to lead them into the kingdom at this early age when their trustfulness has not been destroyed.

Let us look at some of the conditions whereby we enter the kingdom. John 10:9, "I am the door, by me shall ye enter." John 3:3, "Except ye be born again." Heb. 3:19, "They could not enter because of unbelief." Read also 2 Peter 1:5-11 and other passages.

How to Become Great. Having thus struck at the primary question involved, Jesus then tells them how, once being in the kingdom, to become great, "whoso humbly so will, etc." To humble yourself is voluntarily to choose the humble, the lowly, place for yourself; that is, removed from the admiration and the adulation of men. Paul learned this lesson and constantly refers to himself as the "bond slave"; and wishes that he might be cursed for the sake of his brethren Israel. Moses found this place when he pleaded with God to blot him out of the book of his remembrance but to save the children of Israel. Jesus is himself the greatest illustration of this principle. (See Phil. 2:6-11.)

Jesus goes on to teach by contrast what is to be our attitude toward those who are in the kingdom. There is an incidental illumination of the attitude of little children to Jesus. They were never afraid of him. It is true that he might have meant here humble men who have childlike hearts, but we are inclined to feel that it was real children of which he is speaking. Our treatment of them is our treatment of him, for he completely identifies himself with them. To cause such an one to stumble is to have a millstone hanged about his neck and he will be drowned in the depth of the sea. How often as we look at a child do we see Jesus? How often do we remember that as we receive such we are receiving him? To despise one of these is to despise him, for "in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Notice, also, how he brings into this connection the matter of shepherding. Men are lost, born so, and it is to seek these that the son of man came into the world. Is it possible that this very child that stood in their midst was lost? If so, remember it was for such that God is seeking. The conversion of a child is of far greater importance potentially to the kingdom of God than the conversion of the greatest of earth. The loss of a child is terrible in its consequences. Murder, drunkenness, robbery and licentiousness are rampant upon the streets of all of our great cities, and the chief offenders are the boys and girls in the "teen" ages. Economically the conversion of one boy is of incalculable value.