

THE CYCLONE.

From a sky as still as sleep,
A sudden dazzling wonder,
A darkness deep as night,
And then a burst of thunder.

Then, born in the overarch,
A whirling, swirling power,
A downward swoop—a full—
A hush—and then a shower.

Then onward, swift as light,
With roar and shriek it dashes,
And earth and flesh and life
In sickening mass it crashes.

Again a calm like death,
A dreary waste remaining—
A glimpse of sodden earth
Through furious raining.
—William Reed Dunroy.

A BIBLE STORY.

Hartly came down to breakfast, clean shaven and with a clean paper collar. He was solemn looking enough at any time but a clean shave and a clean collar gave him a double aspect of stern Puritanism. But the ever-tinkling in his eye and the ever-twitching about the corners of his mouth betrayed him to be a keen observer.

"Good morning, Maudy," he said in a hollow voice to his wife. "Good morning Will—Clara—Sarie—good morning," to the children. Then not another word until he had finished his cakes, had finished his muffins and coffee, had finished folding his napkin and placed it under his glass, as he had done for years and years.

"Maudy," he said most solemnly as he pushed back his chair and half rose, "Maudy do you know which part of the Bible the book of Hezekiah is in?"

"Why, certainly, it's in the Old Testament."

"I think you are mistaken, Maudy." He had moved over to the door leading to the outer hall.

"But I just know it's in the Old Testament. I've read out of it there lots of times."

"Perhaps it would be well to look it up and make certain," and he had disappeared into the hall and was already out the front door.

At the gate he met Deacon Robertson, a little dried faced man with a quick, nervous walk and a sharp, snappy way of talking. The deacon prided himself on his prayers at the meeting and his knowledge of the Bible.

"Good morning, Deacon,—nice morning" Hartly said as they walked down town.

"Yes, nice, very nice."

Hartly spoke of many things and finally of the prayer meeting the night before.

"By the way, Deacon," he said in a slow, drawing tone, "I meant to ask you a question last night, but you got away too soon. I want you to tell me in which part of the Bible you find the book of Hezekiah. I'm not quite certain."

"Old Testament, certainly."

"Are you quite sure?"

"Could I be mistaken, sir, I who know the Book from beginning to end like the alphabet? No, my dear sir, no!"


"But you might, you know." Hartly was just leaving the Deacon's store where the latter turned in.

"No, sir. I know. I know. The Old Testament. I was reading out of it only last Sunday."

"Better look it up for certain, Deacon. You'll feel better about it." Hartly moved off down the street.

He stepped into the office of the local newspaper—a weekly conducted by Reverend Horace Walker. Walker had been a little too pronounced in his views and had gone into the newspaper business as affording him more lee way to turn them loose. He was a hard student; a man well versed on every subject

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THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE

and especially all phases of theology. He perhaps had a better understanding of the Bible than anyone in the little town, but for a moment he was taken off his guard by the innocent question of Hartly.

"Why, Mr. Hartly, I would say it was in the Old Testament."

"Quite sure?"

"Yes, quite sure."

"Well, you're the third that's said so," answered Hartly backing off toward the door. "It must be so, but yet I don't believe it is. You might look it up some time and let me know."

The editor was a shrewd man naturally and life about the office had made him shrewder. There was something about Hartly's eye and his mouth as he

spoke and something about a little chuckle that escaped Hartly as he went out through the door that aroused Walker's suspicions. He pulled down the Bible (every well-equipped newspaper office finds the Bible as indispensable as the dictionary and last directory) and rapidly ran through the table of contents.

He found Nehemiah and Jeremiah and Obadiah and Zephaniah and Zechariah but no book of Hezekiah. Then he shut the book with a bang and went out to find Hartly.

When the editor returned he told the story to the "foreman," the "tramp-print," who had fallen into the office that day and the "Jevil," who worked the hand press after school hours.

Years afterwards the story came into the mind of the "devil" again when he was hard pressed for copy, and he wrote it down.

This is the story.

HARRY G. SHEDD.

He—Take dress, servants and children out of the conversation of your sex what would you have left?

She (cont. mtdly)—Our friends.

Hewitt—I don't see why you insure your life for \$10,000; you haven't any friends to leave it to.

Jewett—I'll have friends enough if I have \$10,000 coming.

Johnnie and Willie—What is it that makes you chorus girls so fascinating? Dolly and Tossie—We give it up.