& GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER and LILLIAN CHESTER

ILLUSTRATED & C.D.RHODES

SYNOPSIS.

At a vestry meeting of the Market Equare church Gail surgent listens to discussion about the sale of the church tenements to Edward E. Allison, local traction king, and when asked her opinion of the church by Rev. Smith Boyd, says it is apparently a lucrative business shierprise. Allison takes Gail riding in his motor car. When he suggests he is entitled to rest on the laurels of his achievements, she asks the disturbing question. 'Why?' Gail finds cold clasp-proval in the eves of Rev. Smith Boyd. At a bubsied party Allison tells Jim Sargent that his new amblion is to conquer the world. He starts a emblain for consolidation and control of the entire transportation system of the world. Gail telescomes popular. Allison gains centrol of transcontinental traffic and arranges to absorb the Vedder court tenement property of Market Square church. Gail tells Boyd that the exhibatral Market Square church proposes to build will be out of profits wring from squaler. At a meeting of the seven financial magneties of the country, Allison organizes the International Transportation organize. Rev. oblem for him. She sees on an inspe-n trip in Allison's new aubway.

## CHAPTER XII-Continued.

Out in the open, where the sun paled the electric lights of the car into sickly yellow, up into the air, down narrow alleys, aflutter with countless flapping pieces of laundry himself timekeeper. work, then suddenly into the darkness of the tunnel again, then out, on the surface of country fields, and drenry was more cozy in the tunnel, and they returned there for lunch.

Suddenly there came a dull, muffled report, like the distant firing of a cannon; then an interval of silence. an infinitesimal one, in which the car ran smoothly on, and, half rising, they looked at each other in startled questioning. Then, all at once, came a headlong stoppage, a clattering, and slapping and crashing and grinding. all, darkness; blackness so intense that it seemed almost palpable to the #ouch!

There was a single shrick, and a nervous laugh verging on bysteria. The shrick was from Arly, and the laugh from Lucile. There was a cry from the forward end of the car, as of fright; Greggory the general man- women's hardest labor; waiting! A strong hand clutched Gail's

"Don't move!" It was the voice of Allison, crisp, barsh, commanding.

"Anybody hurt?" Tim Corman, the voice of age, but otherwise steady, "It's me," called Tom, the motorman. "Head cut a little, arm bruised. Nothing bad."

"Gail?" Allison again, "Yes." Clear voiced, with

age which has no sex.

"Mrs. Teasdale? Mrs. Fosland?

the list. Everybody safe, "It is an accidental blast," said the

happened might expedite organiza-"We are below the Farmount ridge, over a hundred feet deep, and gers there are.'

may need the oxygen." He and the engineer made their

ment. They took up the door of the minutes they replaced it. From the of bleased light! sounds they seemed remarkably

"That much is lucky," commented Allison. "The next thing is to dig." engineer.

"In front," decided Allison. "The exhas probably shaken down more of solid clay in the rear, and further out '

Gall felt the rector's hand suddenly fully comforting there in the dark; reassuring words, in that low, melodious voice, which thrilled her as did hand, as did the eyes of Dick Rodley. But she had received more strength of command. She began, for the first almost merely optical consciousness,

time, to comprehend his magnitude. "What have we to dig with?" The voice of Rev. Smith Boyd, and there

was a note of eagerness in it. "The benches up in front here." yelled McCarthy, and there was a ripping sound as he tore the seat from

one of them. "Pardon me." It was the voice of the rector, up in front.

and I go first."

"The balance of you sit down, and keep rested," ordered Allison, now also up la front. "McCarthy, Boyd

The long struggle began. The girls grouped together in the back of the car, moving but very little, for there was much broken glass about. Up in front the three men could be heard making an opening into the debris through the forward windows. They talked a great deal, at first, strong, capable voices. They were interfering with each other, then helping. combining their strength to move heavy stones and the like, then they were silent, working independently, or

in effective unison. Tim Corman was the possessor of a phosphorescent-faced watch, with 22 peering into third-story tenements and jewels on the inside and a ruby on the winding stem, and he constituted

> "Thirty minutes," he called out. "Its our shift.

The men crawled in from outside. winter landscape, to the terminal. It but they stayed in the front compartment. The air was growing a triffe close, and they breathed heavily.

"Good-by, girl," called the gayly funereal voice of Ted Teasdale. / "Husband is going to work."

Another interminable wait, while the air grew more stifling. There was no further levity after Lincoln and the motorman and McCarthy had come stupendous roar, as if the world had back; for the condition was becoming split asunder, a jolting and perking, a serious. Some air must undoubtedly be finding its way to the car through the loose debris, but the carbonic acid deafening in its volume, and with it gas exhaled from a dozen pairs of lungs was beginning to pocket, and the opening ahead, though steadily pushing forward, displayed no signs of lessening solidity.

They established shorter shifts now; a quarter of an hour. The men came silently in and out, and as silently worked, and as sliently rested, while someone in pain. A man's yell of the girls carried that heavy burden of

Greggory was the first to give out. in the darkness, firm, reassuring. The then the injured motorman. When their turns came, they had not the strength nor the air in their lungs. Strong McCarthy was the next to join

The shifts had reduced to two, of a month for the purpose. two men each, by now; Ted and old Tim, and Allison and the rector; and light-headed interview, in which Mrs. these latter two worked double time. Phyllis Worthmore, by special request, Their lips and their tongues were was not quoted, suddenly sprang on Greggory Was the First to Give Out. parched and cracking, and in their the startled eyes of Gall, when she periods of rest they sat motionlessly facing each other, with a wheeze in Ted? Doctor Boyd?" and so through the drawing of their breath. Their stentorian breathing could be heard from the forward end of their little voice of Allison. He had figured that tunnel clear back into the car, where a concise statement of just what had the three girls were battling to preserve their senses against the poisonons gases which were now all that they had to breathe. Acting on the Van Ploon, Rev, Smith Boyd, a sallow the tube has caved in on us. There rector's advice, they had stood up in youth who had danced with her three must be no waste of exertion. Don't the car to escape the gradually rising move until I find what electrical dan- level of the carbonic gas, stood, as the time progressed, with their mouths A match flared up, and showed the spape and their breasts heaving and All these crack eligibles were classipale face of the engineer bending sharp pains in their lungs at every breath. Arly dropped, silently crumpling to the floor; then, a few minutes later, Lucile, and, panie stricken by the thought that they had gone under, way back into the parlor compart. Guil felt her own senses reeling, when suddenly, looking ahead through eyes motor well in the floor, and in a few which were staring, she saw a crack

There was a hoarse cry from ahead! The crack of light widened. Another one appeared, some four feet to the right of it, and Gail already fancied "In front or behind?" wondered the that she could feel a freshening of the air she breathed with such tearing pain. Against the light of the openplosion came from that direction, and ings, two figures, the only two which were left to work, strove, at first with at ten o'clock, and had been let in and then with the renewed vigor of approaching triumph. She could dis- taken from a little black traveling bag leave her own. It had been wonder tinguish them clearly now, by the light which streamed in, the stocky. working frantically, Allison with his girls expressed their condolence and occasionally the touch of Allison's and vest both removed, and one sleeve torn almost entirely from his shirt, re- they, sat down and shricked with vesting his swelling biceps, and a laughter. from the voice of Allison. He was long, red scratch. Gail's senses were big, Allison, a power, a force, a spirit numbed, so that they were reduced to Lucile. "But it is funny, too."

its progress, like electric light bugs and electric fan neuralgia, and the smell of gasoline. In the meantime, the representatives of the gay and care-free and ab-

solutely uncurbed metropolitan press. were by no means discouraged by the fact that they had not been able to secure much, except hectic imaginings from the exterior of the Sargent house. They were busy in every other possible direction, with the same commendable persistence which we observe in an ant to drag a grasshopper

up and down a cornstalk on the way Little Miss Piper of the Morning Planet, a somewhat withered and nuckered little woman, who had sense enough to dress so as to excite nothing but pity, quietly slipped on her ugly little bonnet with the funny ribbon bow in the back, and hurried out to the magnificent residence of Mrs. Phyllis Worthmore, who loathed pub-

licity and had photographs taken once The result of that light-hearted and leaped through the Sunday Morning Planet at eight o'clock next morning. and forgotten messages. An entire page, embellished in the center with a beautifully printed photograph, was devoted to the sensa tional beauty from the middle West! Around her were grouped nine smaller photographs; Allison, Dick Rodley, Willis Cunningham, Houston times, a count who had said "How do you do?" and sailed for Europe, and two men whom she had never met. fled under the general head of "Slaver to Her Witching Smile," and a big boxed-in list was given. In extremely black-faced type, stating, in dollars and cents, the exact value in the matrimonial market of each slave; and the lively genius who had put together this symposium, by a toweringly happy thought conceived in the very height of the rush hours, totaled the whole and gave it as the commercial worth of Gail's beauty and charm. It ran lar mark and the two ciphers for

cents. When Lucile Teasdale and Arly Fos land arrived at Jim Sargent's house which stood open at her side. Arlene ubly poured out more sympathy; then

"Ilt's too awful for words!" gasped

Gall's chin quivered.

Volcanic Ashes From Katmai Delayed Progress of Steamer-Explosion Heard Afar.

As we approach Kodiak, strange dark clouds were seen obscuring the horizon at several points and one so heavy and black that it resembled amoke from a great forest fire. Captain Jensen startled us by explaining that this was dust blown by the staff breeze from the lofty hills all about us. These bills seemed covered with snew, but the whitish deposits proved to be ashes, rained down several feet deep upon all this section during the eruption of Mount Katmai in June, of its sockets. 1912 Kaimal is still smoking.

The sun looked like a dull sliver dollar as it shone through the ashy the ears of cattle, and its tall had been that it held our steamer up for four lours until the way was clear. Pass ing your mand over the rail of the piles of each gray names and large ed for the wi

BIG DUST CLOUD IN ALASKA and small pieces of light, friable stone, like pumice stone, which had been thrown out by the volcano,

Leslie's Weekly.

Deer With Glass Eye.

Abalardo Copper of Salinas, Cal. San Lucia range, killed a four-point buck that had a green giass eye in one

Bolides, the ears had been swallow talled, a common practice in marking The dust cloud was so thick cut off in some manner so that only a held our steamer up for four stub an inch long stuck out.

It is thought possibly the deer was your nand over the rail of the a pet of one of the ranches down in it you tound your fingers streaked the Salinas valley, and when the "runwith the impalpable gray powder, ning season started the deer an When we minded at Kodlak we found swered the call its mates and start

Stars and Bars. "Stars and Bars" was the name of the flag recommended by the commit-United States Marshal F. R. Bren- tee for the Confederate States. The nerman of Valder, who was a fellow official description from the report passenger with me, says the explosion of the provisional congress, March 4. of the volcano was heard at that 1861, is as follows: "That the flag place, 400 miles away from Kodiak, of the Confederate States of Ameriand sounded like a cannonading. It ca shall consist of a red field with a was followed by a deposit of fine white space extending horizontally ashes in Valdez.-John A. Sleicher in through the center, and equal in width to one-third the width of the flag. The red spaces above and below to be of the same width as the white The union blue extending down through while hunting in the fastness of the the white space and stopping at the lower red space. In the center of the union a circle of white stars corresponding in number with the number of states in the Confederacy." The flage is in plan like the Stars and Stripes, with three bars or stripes tostead of the 13 stripes, red on top and bottom and white is the middle. The square of blue has a circle of seven five-pointed white stars.

> factory in which radium is being produced has been opened in Scotland by a Scotch chemist.

trace of weakness in the only the grace which had The two figures bent inwo

each other. There was a mighty straining, and the center between the two co away. A huge boulder had barr path, and its removal let down of pure, fresh air from the grow above, let down, too, a flood of dar's zling light; and in the curving, unde rim of the opening, stood the two stafwart men who were the survival of the fittest! The mere instinct of selfpreservation drove Gail forward, with a cry, toward the source of that life giving air, and she scrambled through the window and ran toward the men. They came hurried meet her, and each gave CHAPTER XII

Gail Dedges the Spotlight.

Immediately after Gast had reached

home from the accident in the sub-

way, and had been put to bed and

given tea, and had repeatedly assured

gent request, copies of the "extras."

The accounts were, in the main,

more or less accurate, barring the fact

that there had been one hundred in

Allison's party, all killed. Later is-

sues, however, regretfully reduced the

finally none, at which point they be-

came more or less coherent, and gave

an exact list of the people who were

there, the cause of the accident, and

a most appreciatively accentuated his-

tory of the heroic work of the men

Although she regretted that her plc

ture had by this time crept into the

public prints, grouped with the mur-

discomfort as one of the minor pen-

quiet residence block.

so that she saw things cally; but, even in her n

cealized that what she

strength.

se so stunning. Don't go Mrs. Helen Davies cast on her

feather-brained daughter a glance of severe reproof. "Have you no sense of propriety. Lucile?" she warned. "Gail, very naturally, cannot remain here under the

and your gown

circumstances. It does great credit the doctor there was nothing the mat- to her that, immediately upon realizter with her, they brought, at her ur ing this horrible occurrence, she telegraphed to her mother, without conwhich were already being yelled from sulting any of us, that she was returnevery street corner and down every ing."

"I just wanted to go home." said Gail, her chin quivering and her pretty throat tremulous with breath pent that they started with the assumption from sobbing.

"It'll blow over, Gail," argued Uncle Jim, in deep distress because she was going so soon. If she had only stopped number of dead to forty, six, and long enough to pack up, they might have persuaded her to stay, "Just forget It, and have a good time,"

> "Jim," ordered the stern voice of Aunt Helen, "will you be kind enough to see if anyone is out in front?" "Certainly," agreed Jim, wondering why his wife's sister was suddenly so

severe with him. "It's time to start," called Ted with



utes for good-bys, parting instructions

The adieus were said. Aunt Grace, clasping Gail in her arms, began to sob, out of a full heart and a general need for the exercise. Gerald Fosland took the hand of his wife and kissed it, in most gallant fashion.

"I shall miss you dreadfully, my dear," he stated.

"I shall be thinking of you," sponded Arlene, adjusting her vell. Mrs. Davies drew Arlene into the

drawing room. "It was so sweet of you to agree to accompany Gail," she observed. "It would be useless to attempt to influence her now, but I look to you to bring her back in a week. Her prospects are really too brilliant to be interrupted by an unfortunate episode of this nature."

One could readily see that no deviation from his routine confronted Gerald Fosland this morning. He had had into thirteen figures, including the dol- his plunge and his breakfast, his mail and his paper laid before him, and yet there was something ghastly about the feel of the house. It was as if made as radical a deviation from his the soil there than behind, but it's the slow, limp motions of exhaustion, at the side entrance, they found Gail daily life as he ever had done. He dabbing her eyes with a powder puff, left his mail unopened, after a giance at the postmark; he left his paper unread; he picked up his hat and gloves was a second later than Lucile in and stick, and started to leave the so firm and warm and steady. He had strong figure of Allison and the tall, clasping Gall in ber arms, because she room. As he passed the door leading not talked much to her, just a few sinewy figure of the rector. They were had to lift a traveling veil. The two to Arly's apartments, he hesitated, and put his hand on the knob. He glanced coat off, and the rector with his coat their horror of the outrage, and vol- over his shoulder, as a guilty conscience made him imagine that a servant was coming in, then he gently turned the knob, and entered. A tiny vestitule, and then a little-French-gray salon, and then a boudoir, all in deli- York!" cate blue, and sweet with a faint, deli-

HUNT HELPS MAKE SOLDIERS | muscle-strengthening. | nerve-resting

Preparedness for Military Emergency is Undoubtedly Aided by Outdoor Sport.

While not every one of the three hundred thousand citizens who secured hunters' licenses last year could qualify as a sharpshooter, Doctor Kalbfus, secretary of the state game commission, is not wholly imaginative in suggesting that in the maintenance of its game preserves and in the encouragement of the bunt the state is contributing to its prepared ness for military emergency, says the Philadelphia Bulletin.

An essential of a soldler's equipment is to know how to shoot, and training for marksmanship in the pursuit of bird or rabbit is obviously of But even more essential is value. the soldier's health, the ruggedress of constitution and physical condition to stand the stress of march and work, and outdoor training is the sine rus Anything that the state does to get its young men out of doors and to interest them in boatts-building.

to Sargent's nixious to see Lucile. LESSON TO INCIDENT AND GOLDEN TEXT—When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.—Eph. 45. Just in time to join the mourners, Gerald," greeted Ted. "We're doing a very soleran lot of Gailing." "I'll join you with pleasure," agreed More and more we are convinced that the great trouble with Christians

Gerald, feeling more at home and light of heart here than he had anywhere during the day. Lucile seemed particularly near to him, "Have you any intimation that Gall expects to return soon?" Acts is a continuation of the Gospels

"None at all," stated Aunt Helen, with a queer mixture of somberness and impatience. "She only writes about what a busy time they are having, and how delightfully eager her friends have been about her, and how popular Arly is, and such things as that."

The all sufficient proof was that during "Arly is popular everywhere," stat-"forty days" his disciples had talked ed Gerald, and Lucile looked at him with him concerning the kingdom wonderingly, turning her head very Note, it was only his disciples who beheld, his enemies never saw him afslowly towards him. ter Calvary. (2) Its burden. Just bo-

"What do you hear from Arly?" she inquired, holding up her hand as if fore his ascension Jesus (v. 2) gave his to shield her eyes from the fire, and disciples definite instructions, commandments (Matt. 28:19, 20, etc.) (a) studying him curlously from that shadow.

"Much the same," he answered: "except that she mentions Gail's popularty instead of her own. She had her maid send her another trunkful of clothing, I believe," and he fell to enging into the firenlace

"I am very much disappointed in of receiving the spirit before under-Arly," worried Aunt Helen, "I sent taking the work of witnessing. To Arly specifically to bring Gall back in many the idea of "the kingdom" is week, and they have been gone nine nothing more than the question of salavs!"

"I'm glad they're having a good time," observed Jim Sargent. "She'll come back when she gets ready. The New York pull is something which hits you in the middle of the night, and makes you get up and pack."

"Yes, but the season will soon be over," worried Aunt Helen. "Gail's resence here at this time is so imporant that I do not see how she can eglect it. It may affect her entire uture life. A second season is never so full of opportunities as the first

"Oh, nonsense," laughed Jim. You're a fanatic on matchmaning, Helen. What you really mean is that Gall should make a choice out of the matrimonial market before it has all een picked over."

Lucile watched Gerald with intense nterest. She could scarcely bereve the startling idea which had popped into her head! Gerald's only apparent deviation from his normal attitude had consisted in abstractedly staring into the fire, instead of paying polite attention to everyone.

"You scare me," said Lucile, still vatching Gerald. "I'm not going to leave Gail out there any longer. I'm coing to have her back at once

Gerald raised his head immediately, and smiled at her. "Splendid," he approved. "Fact of the matter is," and he hesitated an

instant, "I'm becoming extremely tong Even Ted detected something in

Gerald's tone and in his face. "It's time you were waking up." he bluntly commented. "I should think you would be lonely without Arly."

"Yes, isn't it time," agreed Gerald, studying the matter carefully. "You know, both having plenty of lessure, there's never been any occasion for us to travel separately before, and, really, I miss her dreadfully."

"I think I'll have to get her for you Gerald," provised Lucile, removing her hand from in front of her eyes. and smiling at him reassuringly. She could smile beautifully just now. The incredible thing she had thought she detected was positively true, and it made her excitedly happy! Gerald Fosland had been in love with his wife, and had never known it until now!

"If you can work that miracle, and bring Gail back with her, you'll spread sunshine all over the place," declared someone were dead! Gerald Fosland Jim Sargent. "It's been like a funeral here since she went nome You'd think Gail was the most important section of New York, Everybody's blue-Allison, Doctor Poyd! everybody who knew her inquires, with long faces, when she's coming back!

> "What do you propose?" inquired Mrs. Helen Davies, with a degree of interest which intimated that she was quite ready to take any part in the conspiracy.

"I have my little plan," laughed Lucile. "I'm going to send her an absolutely irresistible reminder of New TO BE CONTINUED.

sport, goes far in preparing efficient soldlers, and to this physical condition there is added the practical training in the handling of gun and ritte.

All Lessons of Life.

The worst kind of trouble and sor row should only teach us the lesson of a wider sympathy and love. We should never allow ourselves to be come immersed in our own griefs, for that only intensities them. Let us shut them out of our minds as much as possible.

By tetting no day pass without do ing some kindness to others who are perhaps far worse off than we are the trouble, which seemed so gigantic at first, will gradually sink to tallipu tian dimensions. By thinking sunov thoughts and shutting out the intrud ing dark ones we can rob grief of all its sting. By admitting only to thoughts of love and peace we belt ourselves and many others.

New Yorkers Fonn of Cridy. New York is the targest candy-co numing center in the world.



TEXT-God did tempt Abraham.

God cannot be tempted with qvil, and neither loes he tempt any man



ern Newspaper Union.

JANUARY 2

is that the life of Jesus for them closes

with the gospels. We seem to fail to

comprehend that he is living today as

much and even more than he was nine-

teen hundred years ago. The Book of

I. The Proof of the Resurrection.

vv. 1-3. (1) Its reality. No better

proved event is recorded in history

than the resurrection (see 1 Cor. 15:4-

8); it stands absolutely unchallenged.

to tarry in Jerusalem, (b) to be clothed

with power, (c) to go forth and to pro-

claim or herald his cospel. During

those intervening days of waiting for

the endowment with power they alone

knew the gospel and men were perish-

ing, which gives point to the necessity

vation, whereas to be saved is but to

enter into his kingdom. The agent to

carry on his work in the kingdom is

II. The Promise of the Father, vv.

4-8. Read carefully Joel 2:28, Isa

44:3, and compare with Luke 24:49,

and also the words of the Baptizer,

Luke 3:16. (1) To receive the Holy

Spirit is an obligation upon all, they

were "charged not to depart from Je

rusalem" (v. 4) (See also Eph. 5:18).

(b) The reception is to be preceded

by repentance for sin, though the con-

fession of sin and the acknowledgment

of Christ as Savior is only possible

through the spirit (I Cor. 12:3). (c)

With the spirit comes power, author-

ity'(v. 7). This power is of God, it is

spiritual, it is not "temporal" nor of

the church. The kingdom is a spirit

ual idea (Luke 17:21) and the vice-re-

gent of that kingdom is the Holy

'spirit-filled men as witnesses" and

beginning at Jerusalem." This prom-

ise of Jesus (v. 8) suggested to the

disciples the restoration of israel to

its place among the nations and in his

reply he intimates that such is a pos

sibility (see Isa. 1:25-27, Ezek. 36:23-

28, Hosea, 3:4, 5, Joel-3:16-21, Amos 9:11-15), but in a most emphatic man-

ner he tells them that of that hour

God has reserved to himself the

knowledge (Matt. 24:36, Mark 3:22).

When they were to receive the king-

dom he does not tell, but when they

should receive power he tells them

plainly, viz: when the spirit should

come upon them. The spirit is not

for mere happiness or gratification

but comes upon us for usefulness (see

4:8-12, 31, 33, 5:32, 9:17, 29) and that

beginning at home, in Jerusalem

then to the ends of the earth. A spir

it-Biled Christian or church is a good

home missionary and foreign evangel

ist as well. Finishing his message, he

ascended on high, and this act has

ever since been continued. His ascen

sion is a blessed historical fact, fully.

attested and deeply significant. He as

cended to lead captivity captive, to

appear in God's presence for us in our

behalf and to prepare a place for us

that where he is we may be also

(Heb. 9:24, John 14:2). His presence

now on high guagantees our presence

there hereafter (John 12:26, 14:3,

III. The Present Place of Jesus, vv

9-11. While he talked with his disci

ples he ascended even as Enoch

walked "and was not" (Gen 5:24, Heb

9:28, R. V.). The query must natural

ly have arisen in their minds, "When

shall we have another interview with

him?" As that question arose behold

two were near to answer (v. 10) and

their answer was a practical one

"Why stand 'coking into heaven?

There are times to gaze and times to

go. Now is the time to be fulfilling

bls command (yv. 4, 12) and not to

be lost in wonder and speculation. But

to cheer their hearts these men in

white gave them, and us, a wonderful

promise, viz., Jesus is coming back,

visibly, personally (the words of the

original text are very plain and post-

tive) and, as he was received in the

This promise is and has always been

the great hope of the church (Titus

IV. The Place of Prayer, vv. 12-14

The disciples were bidden to tarry, to

tarry at a specified place, Jerusalem.

and to tarry at a specified place for a

particular purpose, viz., "power." They

obeyed. The empowering blessing can

only be received through obestience

(Acts 5:32). The time of waiting was

not idly nor listlessly passed, for it

The disciples had seen the risen and

ascended Lord, had seen him disap

pear in the Shekinah glory beyond the

cloud and their hearts were knit to

There was an overwhelming sens

of their personal relations to him who

had taught them during his earth!

life and who continued to do and to

Jesus is yet, and shall ever more, b

those who love him, who look for his

glorious appearing.

Next Sunday's lesson is the record
of the answer to their prayer.

was spent in prayer.

gether in equinon prayer.

teach after his resurrection

clouds, he will come in a cloud.

Rev. 3:21).

lifted his hands and in benediction he

The program of Jesus is

the Holy Spirit.

Spirit.

(v. 1), and is yet a closed book.

to strengthen their faith and so give them more of himself and lead them into deeper and richer spiritual experience. He expressly says in

eth temptation, for when he is tried he shall veceive the crown of life." Abraham

had been tried by the Lord many times, but this last supreme trial has some characteristics which are common to many Christians' experience. Unexpected. It is said that "after these things

God did try Abraham." After a life lourney of nearly one hundred and twenty-five years. After all the experiences which were packed into his life. After the birth and coming to age of the promised son. At a time when it would perhaps seem as though the life was completed and only needing the final touch of being taken away from the scene around him. He may have felt that now he could rest a little in his old age and, like Job, "die in his nest." But there never is perfection in this life and therefore the training. is never done. Today's goal is but the starting point for tomorrow. Many of the Lord's people come to a time when they feel as though their life were complete. They have come over rough paths and hard ways. Trying experiences have been met, but it seems that these are all in the past and now, having passed them, they settle down as though there were an end of the testings and they had come to rest. But suddenly, in sweeps a harder test than any before. It comes all unexpected. Or they think they have conquered some part of the old nature and need not watch it longer. Then one day there comes the flerce attack, unlooked for and unexpected. But blessed is theman that endureth the unexpected

Unexplained.

temptation. As far as the record goes, the Lord gave Abraham no word of explanation concerning the offering up of Isaac. God simply told him to take his son whom he loved and offer him a burnt offering. Abraham was human, like ourselves, so we can readily believe that into his mind, as so often into our own, there sprang the question. Why! We desire to know so much of the Lord's doings before we are ready to obey him. What a mark of unconscious to why God does this or that in his dealings with us. . He applies the test and then, before we meet it, we want to know the "why" for it. We show so much of distrust when hanging back from doing as he says because we do not understand. But God's trials are nct all explained. He seldom lets us know why, for if we knew there would be little opportunity for faith to ope-

God had promised Abraham that in

Isaac should his seed be called. Isaac was the heir of the promises. Through the years of Isaac's youth Abraham knew that nothing could possibly take away Isaac's life. In Isaac was centered the promise of a great multitude. If anything happened to him, therefore, the promise of God would be of none effect. We can imagine Abraham saying, when sickness or accident threatened the life of his boy, that it was impossible for him to die or be killed, for how then could the promise be fulfilled? How unreasonable then it seemed for God to tell him to take this boy and slay him. Would he not be tempted to ask, "How then will the promise be kept?" Would not the tempter suggest that either God had forgotten his word or he was making a mistake, or that Abraham had misunderstood the message? How often we are tempted to question the reasonableness of God's actions. But here again; if we understood all that God was doing, the walk by faith would be changed to sight. God wants not reasoners but believers. And blessed is the man who endureth temptation

preme faith. The book of Hebrews do clares it was by faith he obeyed. His obedience was prompt, unquestioning. uncomplaining, deliberate. He did not hesitate to obey, there was no inquir ing into the reason for offering Isaac. strange as such a thing would seem He did not wait to see how God would fulfill his promise, but by faith he offered up Isaac, of whom it was said. that "in Isaac shall thy seed be called." The secret of such faith leading to such obedience is found when the test has been met and the victory won God said to Abraham, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou has fear of the Lord is the secret of obedi-

even when it seems unreasonable.

And Abraham met this test with su-

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