As clothes make the man so will a thorough overhauling and painting make your car. It will make it look like a ten time winner and let other folks know that it has its speed clothes on. What do you think about it?

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WON HIGHEST HONORS IN HADES CONTEST

Introducing a Well-Known Character

By Alan Pressley Wilson

Through an underground (although not an underhand) chanel, I have learned of a contest that took place recently in Hell. The object of the contest, as stated by the Devil himself, was to enable him to ascertain who among his evil cohorts was best fitted to occupy the realm of Hell.

The contestants were given a term of years in which to preform the most diabolical deed each could devise, obtain authenticated proof of its actual performance and to present all evidence at a public meeting for that purpose. Under his seal the Devil obligated himself to reward the one winning the contest by making that one his Deputy, give him power to reign with absolute authority during the Devil's indisposition or absence on vacation and to present him with a scepter second only in fearfulness to that of the Devil himself.

At the appointed time the cohorts of Hell assembled in solemn conclave and each one in the audience was in breathless expectation to learn what the Devil (who had announced previously that he was to be the sole judge in the contest) would consider the most diabolical deed.

Armed with documentary evidence in some instances filling to overflowing a lawyer's brief case, each contestant assembled on the platform and a smile of self-satisfaction overspread the countenance of the one who at the call of the Archdemon, walked to a position in front of the Throne and recited his evil valor and misdeeds.

Without going into the details of what was a most sordid recital of shame, degradation, dishonor and crime, it will suffice to tell the last to present himself for the coveted honor

When the name of "Old Trusted Subscriber" was called by the Archdemon a somewhat unfamilar figure stepped to the front of the stage and saluted his Majesty, began his recital. There was little about his appearance to justify an onlooker in supposing that he belonged in that motley gang of evildoers, nor did he carry much evidence of his wrongdoing. In fact, with the exception of a few letters and cards which he held conspicuously, one could not discern that he was a candidate for the honor offered by the Devil.

Given permission to speak, Old Trusted Suscriber related that he had subscribed for the local newspaper a number of years ago. "At first," said he, "I paid in advance each year. Then I found out that the Editor was a pleasant sort of person, trustful and hardworking, and not disposed to press those who were indebted to him; so I began to let my subscription lapse. Every now and again there appeared a notice in the paper to pay up, with a mild threat that back accounts would be placed in the hands of a lawyer for collection. As a sort of sop I went to the office and paid for a year on my indebtedness, but never paid up in full, not to mention paying in advance. Then I made inquiry and found that those who did not 'scare' at the threat to take legal action were not molested or troubled, so I decided I need not settle, either.

"In the meantime, I got all the personal mention and publicity I wanted. whenever we gave a party or had friends visiting at our house the Editor always published a note of it. Whenever we gave a party or had or one of my children got married, I always wrote out a long account in which I praised myself as being a representative citizen of the community and the Editor always published it in full. Whenever one of my boys or girls went off to school the Editor mentioned it; when they got high marks or won distinction the Editor printed an account of it and I figure that I got twice the value of the subscription price each year;but, year by year, I got further and further behind with my payments.

Then I moved away from town, but as I wanted to know of the doings in my old town, and knowing full well that the home paper would chronicle all of these doings, as well as publish anything I might send in from my new home so that my friends might hear from me without the trouble of writing to them, I ordered the paper sent to my new address. The Editor 'fell' for this imposition and even wrote out, without any suggestion from me, a eulogistic item about my value to the community and the loss the community would feel at my going. But this did not induce me to pay up before leaving.

"When my paper was five years in arrears I received a bill from the Editor but paid no attention to it. Here is the first, second, third and fourth bill I received. Here, also is a notice from a lawyer and another from a collection agency asking me to pay what I justly owe the paper. Here, too, is evidence to the effect that I ordered my Postmaster to send notices, at three different times, advising the Editor that I refused the paper; and here—"

"Enough.. Enough.." cried his Majesty, not a little elated at the gruesome recital. "This is the most diabolical deed that ever mortal could perform.

"Vest this Demon with the robe of office; elevate him to a place on the throne second only to mine; place in his hand the sceptre of authority. Bow the knee to the Deputy Devil."

Business Methods

When the agent brought Mrs. Tarley her fire insurance policy he remarked that it would be well for her to pay the premium at once.

"How much will it be?" she asked.

"About fifteen dollars. Wait a minute and I'll find the exact amount."

"Oh, how tiresome!" ste exclaimed. "Tell the company to let it stand and deduct it from what they owe me when the house burns down."—

OH DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 5

ELIJAH TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

LESSON TEXT.—II Kings, 2:1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2:10.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Mark 9:2-8; II Tim. 4:1-8.

PRIMARY TOPIC—God Takes Elijah to Heaven.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Elijah Taken Up Into Heaven.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jehovah's Champion Exalted.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Divine Approval of Faithful Service.

I. God Reveals to Elijah His Approaching Rapture (v 1).

It was made known to Elijah that he was to go to heaven by a whirlwind. There is a striking correspondence between his life and his home-going. Much of his life was characterized with the rush of the storm, so God chose to take him home to himself in the whirlwind. As a reward for his faithfulness, God lifted the prophet over death into heaven. Elijah did not choose the time of his home-going, but was ready.

II. Elijah's Closing Ministry (vv. 2-8).

Knowing that the time of his home-going was near, he did not change his manner or method of life, but thoughtfully and calmly pursued his customary duties.

1. Visits the schools of the prophets (vv. 2-8). At the Lord's direction he went to give his farewell counsels to the young students whom he had been training and upon whom the future of the nation politically and religiously so largely depended. He made regular rounds in visitation and instruction. Schools were located at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. His educational work shows him to have been not merely an iconoclast, but a statesman of a high order.

2. Trains Elisha to be his successor (vv. 2-8). There was a real friendship between Elijah and Elisha, though the one was old and the other young. Elisha came into the life of Elijah in the field when Elijah called him from the plow (I Kings 19:19-21). Elisha clung to his master to the very last in spite of three urgent requests for him to remain behind. These tests were somewhat like those of the Master with Peter (John 21:15-17). The great object was to get him ready to take up the work which Elijah was to lay down. The order of progress of the journey indicates, says Scofield, "the experience of every child of God who enters into a vital experience of God's best. That walk began at Gilgal. The typical significance of Gilgal cannot be mistaken by any reader of Joshua. Gilgal was the place where a redeemed people rolled away the reproach of Egypt (Josh. 5:1-11).

"The next stage was Bethel—house of God—the place of vision, of spiritual insight, for Bethel was the place where Jehovah gave Jacob the great ladder vision (Gen. 28:1-19). He must go on from Bethel to Jordan. Jordan stands for the New Testament truth, crucified with Christ. There, on the resurrection side of Jordan, the gift of power awaited the prophet."

III. Elijah's Rapture (vv. 9-11).

1. Elisha's request of Elijah (v. 9). The walk of Elisha with Elijah from Gilgal to Jordan has prepared him for the final question of Elijah before his rapture. Elijah now knew that it was safe to allow Elisha to choose for himself. Elisha made a noble request—did not ask for riches, honor or position. He supremely desired the qualifications which would enable him to worthily succeed Elijah. Curiously enough, however, Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah.

2. The condition of receiving was steadfastness and perseverance (v. 10). He must have faith in the invisible life in order to have power for public ministry.

3. Elijah's rapture (v. 11). It seems that he went to heaven in a chariot of fire enveloped by the whirlwind. Elijah underwent that change which all believers shall experience at the appearing of Christ (I Cor. 15:51, 52).

IV. The Spirit of Elijah Upon Elisha (vv. 12-15).

1. Elisha's cry (v. 12). He cried after Elijah, "The chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof!" This shows the value of a godly man to his country. It implies that Elijah was the true national defense. Godliness and character are more important than armies and navies.

2. Elisha uses the power (vv. 13, 14). He had faith to put the power to test.

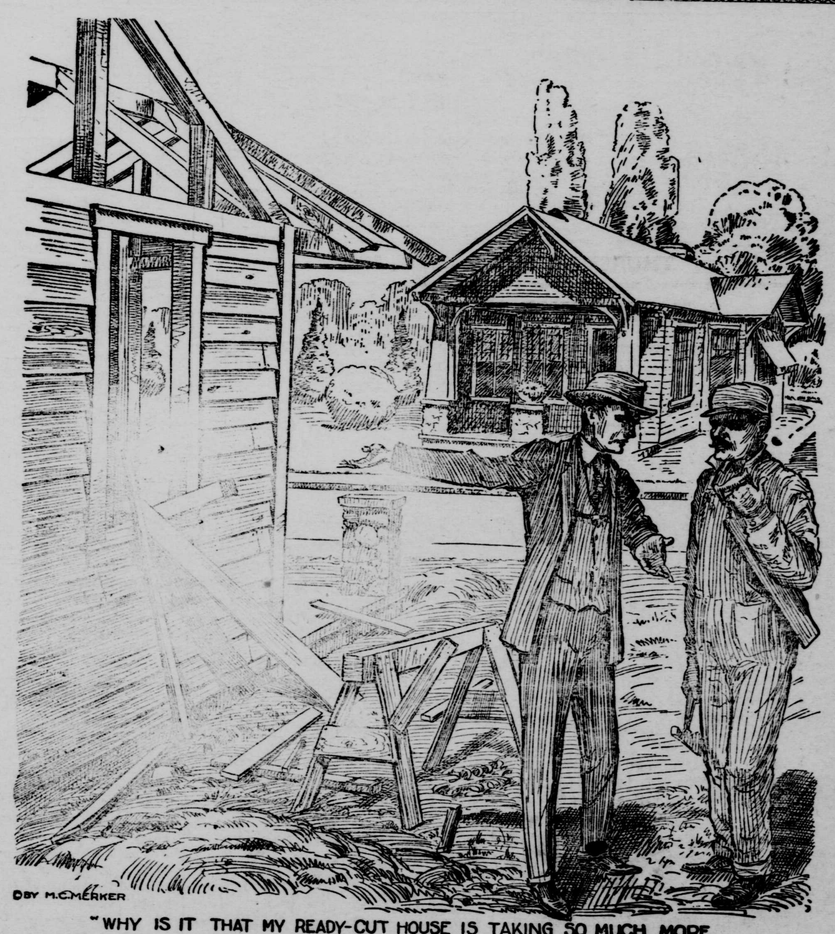
3. The spirit of Elijah on Elisha (v. 15). This was confirmed by the sons of the prophets.

A Prophecy of Christ.

And the angel of the Lord protested unto Joshua, saying, Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the branch. In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree.—Zechariah 3:6-10.

Suffering.

There is no suffering in the world but ultimately comes to be endured by God.—A. T. Quiller Couch.



"WHY IS IT THAT MY READY-CUT HOUSE IS TAKING SO MUCH MORE TIME AND MONEY THAN MR. WISE'S?"

"THAT'S EASY ANSWERED, MR. WISE HAD HIS HOUSE DESIGNED AND BUILT BY OUR HOME CONTRACTOR. YOU PREFERRED A READY-TO-SET-UP HOUSE SENT YOU AND NOTHING FITS."

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART

Are you doing your part toward the support of your home lumber industry? The lumber industry is one of our town's greatest assets, it encourages other industries and is a source of employment to many of our fellow residents. When we send out of town for a Ready-Cut house we are helping to cripple one of our industries, one on which a great part of the town's prosperity depends. The wise man will support his home lumber industry, and be satisfied that he is not only doing the right thing, but also that he is saving time and money.

MORAL.—A slap together house will only give slap together service.

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