

Children's Story, Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath

The Trick that Backfired

By Chantal Klingbeil

Mr. Sargent and Mr. Robbins were a problem. These two self-appointed preachers were teaching some strange things which were confusing and discouraging the believers in Boston. Some of the believers had heard that young Ellen Harmon had received some encouraging messages from God and so they asked her to come and speak to the group.

Sargent and Robbins also heard that Ellen Harmon was coming and decided that she needed to be kept away from the believers at all costs. But how would they stop her from coming when she had been invited? They came up with what they thought was a fool proof trick. They would simply move the meeting place and Ellen Harmon would arrive to an empty house, while all the people she expected to talk to would be somewhere else listening to them preach. Sargent and Robbins told Otis Nichols, who was driving Ellen and her sister to the meeting, that they would be meeting in a home in Boston and then they sent word to the believers that the meeting venue was to be in a home in Randolph, a town about ten miles south of Boston.

Everything seemed to go according to plan. The believers arrived in Randolph and Sargent got to preach. But in the middle of his sermon in walked the Nichols family together with Ellen and Sarah Harmon. Ellen had been told in a vision about the address change.

After that things went from bad to worse for Sargent and Robbins. Ellen was taken into vision in front of everyone. Sargent and Robbins tried singing and shouting out bible verses to stop people from hearing what she was saying. During this vision Ellen Harmon held a family Bible in one hand and raised the Bible above her head then turned the pages with the other hand. Without looking she pointed her finger to the verses she was repeating. Finally hoarse, Sargent and Robbins couldn't do anything more to interrupt God's messenger as she proved from the Bible that what Sargent and Robbins were teaching was false. The words she spoke brought hope to the people – that is all except Sargent and Robbins. Any hope they had had of continuing to influence the group left with them as they quietly slipped out of the meeting. Their trick had backfired!