

Uncle Tom's Cabin

(Told to the Children)

By

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Chapter 1

Uncle Tom and Little Harry are Sold

- 1) Very many years ago, instead of having servants to wait upon them and work for them, people used to have slaves.
- 2) These slaves were paid no wages.
- 3) Their masters gave them only food and clothes in return for their work.

4) When anyone wanted servants, he went to market to buy them,

just as nowadays we buy horses and cows, or even tables and

chairs.

5) If the poor slaves were bought by kind people, they would be

quite happy.

6) Then they would work willingly for their masters and
mistresses, and even love them.

7) But very often cruel people bought slaves.

8) These cruel people used to beat them and be unkind to them
in many other ways.

9) It was very wicked to buy and sell human beings as if they
were cattle.

10) Yet Christian people did it, and many who were good and kind otherwise thought there was no wrong in being cruel to their poor slaves.

11) “They are only black people,” they said to themselves.

12) “Black people do not feel things as we do.”

13) That was not kind, as black people suffer pain just

in the same way as white people do.

14) One of the saddest things for the poor slaves was that they

could never long be a happy family all together—father,

mother, and little brothers and sisters—because at any time

the master might sell the father or the mother or one

of the children to someone else.

15) When this happened those who were left behind were very

sad indeed—more sad than if their dear one had died.

16) Uncle Tom was a slave.

17) He was a very faithful and honest servant, and his master,

Mr. Shelby, was kind to him.

18) Uncle Tom's wife was called Aunt Chloe.

19) She was Mr. Shelby's head cook, and a very good one too

she was.

20) Nobody in all the country round could make such delicious

pies and cakes as Aunt Chloe.

21) Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe lived together in a pretty little

cottage built of wood, quite close to Mr. Shelby's big house.

22) The little cottage was covered with climbing roses, and

the garden was full of beautiful bright flowers and lovely

fruit trees.

23) Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe lived happily for many years

in their little cottage, or cabin, as it was called.

24) All day Uncle Tom used to work in the fields, while Aunt

Chloe was busy in the kitchen at Mr. Shelby's house.

25) When evening came, they both went home to their cottage
and their children, and were merry together.

26) Mr. Shelby was a good man, and kind to his slaves, but he
was not very careful of his money.

27) When he had spent all he had, he did not know what to do
to get more.

28) At last he borrowed money from a man called Haley, hoping

to be able to pay it back again someday.

29) But that day never came.

30) Haley grew impatient, and said, “If you don’t pay what you

owe me, I will take your house and lands, and sell them

to pay myself back all the money I have lent to you.”

31) So Mr. Shelby sold everything he could spare and gathered money together in every way he could think of, but still there was not enough.

32) Then Haley said, “Give me that slave of yours called Tom—he is worth a lot of money.”

33) But Mr. Shelby knew that Haley was not a nice man.

34) He knew he did not want Tom for a servant, but only wanted
to sell him again, to make more money.

35) So Mr. Shelby said, “No, I can’t do that. I never mean to sell
any of my slaves, least of all Tom.

36) He has been with me since he was a little boy.”

37) “Oh very well,” said Haley, “I shall sell your house and
lands, as I said I should.”

38) Mr. Shelby could not bear to think of that, so he agreed to let
Haley have Tom.

39) He made him promise, however, not to sell Tom again except
to a kind master.

40) “Very well,” said Haley, “but Tom isn’t enough. I must have another slave.”

41) Just at this moment a little boy came dancing into the room where Mr. Shelby and Haley were talking.

42) He was a pretty, merry little fellow, the son of a slave called Eliza, who was Mrs. Shelby’s maid.

43) “There now,” said Haley, “give me that little chap,

as well as Tom, and we will say no more about the money

you owe me.”

44) “I can’t,” said Mr. Shelby.

45) “My wife is very fond of Eliza, and would never hear

of having Harry sold.”

46) “Oh, very well,” said Haley once more, “I must just sell
your house.”

47) So again Mr. Shelby gave in, and Haley went away
with the promise that next morning Uncle Tom and little
Harry should be given to him, to be his slaves.