

JUNIOR TOPICS

MARCH 21.—THE CAPTIVE MAID. 2 Kings 5: 1-14.

There were a great many heathen people who lived about the land of Canaan where the Israelites lived. These people used often to come and rob and hurt the people of Israel, who were not as good as they should have been. They did not always obey and worship God, and their sins brought them punishment in this way.

Once some of these heathen people came and took away a little girl out of the land of Israel and sold her for a slave to wait on a rich heathen lady who lived in Syria. The lady's husband was called Naaman. (Have one of the juniors tell all he can about Naaman,—what kind of a man he was and what he did. Another might tell something about leprosy. The questions should be given out at the previous meeting.) The little girl knew of the wonders the Prophet Elisha had done, and felt sure that he could cure her master, so she told her mistress about him. Naaman was very anxious to be cured, so when he heard about Elisha, he determined to go to the land of Israel and see him. Elisha heard that Naaman was coming and he knew that God would help him make him well. Elisha wanted Naaman to know that it was God who would cure him, and he hoped that Naaman would love and worship Him—the true God, who could do such wonders. Naaman came into the land of Israel with his horses and chariot, bringing servants and lots of money with him. He expected Elisha would pay him a great deal of respect because he was so rich and great, and that he would, in some wonderful way, cure him of his leprosy. We can imagine that he was greatly surprised when, after driving up to Elisha's house, Elisha did not even come out to see him. (Tell the story of the healing of Naaman as found in II Kings 5: 10-14, bringing out the fact that after being cured Naaman became a believer in the one true God.)

The following points may help the leader in deducing the lessons from the story.

1. The character of the little "maid." She had been taken away from her own country and was a slave in Syria, yet she had no thought of revenge in her heart or she would not have been so eager to have Naaman cured. She felt only love and kindness toward those people who must have caused her a great deal of sorrow.

2. God needs the help of every boy and girl. Insignificant as she probably was in the great wealthy home of Naaman, the little girl was ready to do all she could to help her master. Had she kept quiet Naaman would not have been cured or brought to believe in the true God. All boys and girls should ever be on the lookout for a chance to do good.

3. God is no respecter of persons. Naaman thought because he was rich and mighty he would be cured in some special way. But God treats us all alike. He thinks just as much of the very poorest as He does of those who are rich. I think He was more pleased with the poor little slave girl than He was with her wealthy mistress.

MAR. 28.—OUR SCHOOLS IN CHINA. John 3: 14-17.

Education has always been valued by the Chinese. Without education no one could obtain an official position. But scholars were not taught subjects such as arithmetic, history, geography, about which we know so much. They knew very little about their own country and less about other countries of the world. More than two thousand years ago, a great man named Confucius wrote some text books. He wanted the people to be good, but he did not know about God as his heavenly Father. His books were studied by the people. He lived 500 years before Christ was born. When missionaries went to China they opened schools and taught Western subjects. In 1905 a decree was issued by the ruler, the Empress Dowager, by which the system of education was changed, to allow Western learning to be introduced through all the Empire. Scholars in the Government schools were compelled to bow before the tablet of Confucius. Missionaries taught boys, believing that some day these would become preachers and teachers, so that the old forms of idolatry might be abolished.

A girl in China had not been considered of much value, so she received little, if any, education. But missionaries tried to show the Chinese that girls to be useful women, and Christian wives and

Mrs. Plewman, wife of one of our missionaries, and in a little building erected by Mr. and Mrs. Plewman in their own yard, this good woman is training the younger children.

When our evangelists go to college in Chengtu they take their families there.

At every mission station, and in a number of the out-stations we have day schools, attended by both boys and girls. These are taught by the missionaries or by Chinese teachers who are under the direction of our missionaries. Over two thousand pupils now attend in the seventy-six primary schools. There are thirteen higher elementary and three middle schools. Besides, we have a share in the Union University at Chengtu.

With boys and young men studying medicine, and both girls and boys being trained in the highest ideals of life, we will have in the not far distant future, many Christian teachers and preachers to further sow the seeds of the Gospel of peace and truth. Through the students in the school, many families are reached, and the missionaries' faithful work goes on, leading mothers and fathers to Jesus. Let us pray and give that other workers may be sent.

"Greatest blessings we can find
In a friend that's true and kind.
Jesus, help us all to be

True to others, true to Thee."
—C.G.W.

APRIL, 4.—THREE HEROES. Daniel 3: 8-26.

A few weeks ago we learned that because God was displeased with King Solomon for his sins, He said his kingdom should be divided and his son should be king over only a part of it.



THE PALACE ROAD.

Amateur photograph. By Fred. W. Barrett, Napanee.

mothers, must be trained. God loves the girls as well as the boys. Tell something of the great population of China and why education is of such importance in that country.

Our mission school system has proved of great benefit, for it includes all grades from kindergarten to university. Rev. Edward Wilson Wallace is Secretary of the West China Educational Union. He visits the various schools as our inspectors do here in Canada.

Our Woman's Missionary Society has a splendid school for girls in Chengtu. At other stations girls' boarding schools are doing excellent work in the development of the girl.

A kindergarten has been organized by

That part was called Judah. The kings of Judah lived at Jerusalem. Some of them were good, but most of them were very wicked. Most of the people of Jerusalem were wicked also, and worshipped idols. God had had a great deal of patience with these wicked people, but now He sent prophets to tell them that He would not keep them safe any longer but would send a heathen king to come and take them away.

At last there came a rich, proud king called Nebuchadnezzar to fight against the people of Jerusalem. This king came from Babylon and with a great many soldiers got into the city of Jerusalem, burning the most beautiful places, and carrying off the king and many people