

# The Junior Epworth Era

Edited by Rev. J. T. Bartlett, Associate General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues

## About Your Home

What is home to you? Is it just a place of residence? Does the word "home" simply suggest the building where you eat and sleep? Is it the same in your mind as the word "house"? If so, that is not enough. There are far more houses than homes in the world. Money can build grand palaces and furnish them with every luxury, but money cannot buy a home. Homes are made by the people who live in the houses. A house may have every comfort the physical wants of our bodies may require, and yet those who live in it may not be happy at home. Only love can furnish a home. Love is greater wealth than money. It has an almost unlimited power to create happiness, while mere dollars often totally fail. The money-poor emigrant with a large family can take his few packing-cases and turn them into tables and dressers, and find ample furnishings for a home that some princes might envy, as far as contentment and pure domestic joy are concerned. Home is what we make it. It is rich or poor, not according to the quality of the furniture it contains, but according to the spirit and dispositions of those who use that furniture. One family may have little but misery in a house, and another may follow them in the same dwelling and have a truly happy life. Four walls and a roof may enclose a splendid home, and a grand palatial outfit

may not comprise a home at all. Material things make up a house, but living and loving souls are necessary for a home. Therefore, do not envy some one who may have a more costly residence than yours. Rather seek to make your humbler place the abode of a happy, united and contented family. No one person can make a home. Father may build it and furnish it; mother may arrange all the details of daily maintenance; but everybody who lives there must do his or her part towards creating the home. One cannot make a home; but one can spoil it. A bad spirit showing itself in a son or daughter may almost destroy the peace and harmony that would otherwise be there. You do not know, dear young friend, how much you can do to make your home what God wants it to be, until you try. Too many children are more agreeable and pleasant in some other house than their own. This is not the best way. If there is one special spot in all the world where you should be at your best in spirit and performance it is your own home. Your father's house should be the sweetest place on earth to you, and your daily life there should fit you for the Father's house in heaven. Make your father a home where smiling faces, loving words, helpful deeds, and united prayers shall all combine to make everybody always happy there.

## Weekly Topics

April 21.—"Pleasant words and harsh words."—(Our words.) Prov. 15, 1-4.

A word is a symbol representing a thought. When we speak we use words to express our meaning. A spoken word is a vocal sound which we make in order to convey an idea. When we write words we make certain visible combinations of letters which stand for the sounds we utter when we speak. Our topic study teaches us the great need of always using "wise words." But to do this we must ourselves have wisdom. So last week's topic is of great importance, for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The kinds of words we use from day to day go to show what we really are in our true selves. If we are "wise," our words will be "wholesome." In v. 4 Solomon writes of "a wholesome tongue." That is wholesome which tends to health. So our words should always be clean, pure, virtuous, for if they are not they will breed disease of both minds and morals in those who hear us speak, as well as in ourselves. "Wise words" are always opportune. That is, they are suitable—they fit. How many words do not "fit." They are out of place and are offensive and harmful. If we think much and talk little, our words will be "fitly spoken," and if you want to see what such a word is like, turn to Prov. 25, 11. A person who is always talking thoughtless words is described in Prov. 29, 20. Do you not see good advice in Eccles. 5, 2? Again, wise words are always respectful. Boys and girls especially need to be very particular in this matter. Many harsh, unkind, disrespectful things are thoughtlessly spoken. Be respectful to all, and always talk reverently of sacred things. Never make a careless, flippant remark about religion or anything related to God. The Bible, church, Sabbath, minis-

ters, old age, should all be spoken of respectfully. Do not get into the habit of making jokes or saying "smart things" about any of these. Our words should always be devout. Thus our feelings of reverence will express itself in what we say. Do not be afraid of being "too good" in your talk. There is far too much slang and slander in the world of human speech. In all our words should be sincere. Mean what you say, and never say a thing you do not mean. Untruthfulness, insincerity, lying, are the very worst of vices. They shut thousands out of the kingdom of heaven. Prov. 12, 17, Ps. 15, 1, 2, Prov. 8, 7, and Ps. 101, 7, are good texts for us all. So we have learned that "wise words" are

Wholesome.  
Opportune.  
Respectful.  
Devout.  
Sincere.

Let us all try to cultivate the use of such words every day.

April 28.—Missionary Meeting—Around the World Trip, "In China."

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

Hymn.

Prayer for all missionaries, for the girls and boys in China, and for ourselves, that we may try to help them.

Repeat together the 67th Psalm. See the "China Tickets."

Hymn.

The Guides will now take us from Shanghai to Yuiin Hsion, our first mission station in West China.

The News Agents will here tell something about our work in West China.

Hymn on the "China Tickets." to be sung by the Passengers, Guides, News Agents, and Conductors.

A trip to our Mission Stations by the Guides and News Agents.

The Story of Cheng, to be read aloud.

Singing of Cheng's hymn, "The Lord of All Grace."

The Conductors will give out the tickets for the next meeting, which will be India.

Hymn. Mizpah Benediction.

FOR THE CHINA SECTION OF THE TRIP USE THE FOLLOWING:

China for Juniors, 10c.; Chinese Abominations, 1c.; Tien Da Niang, 5c.; Maps and Pictures of Our Work in China, 15c.; The Old Priest of Mt. Omei, 5c.; From Alberta to China, 5c.; The Story of Cheng; 1 pair Chop Steaks, 5c.; Incense, 1c.—47c. All the above will be sent for 25c.  
China Trip tickets, 50c. per 100, 1/2c. each.

"The Life of Robt. Morrison," 5c.  
Copies of Cheng's hymn, "The Lord of All Grace," with music, will be sent free to those wishing to use it in the League or Sunday-school. When ordering, please write plainly the number of copies required.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Send for Cheng's hymn, "The Lord of All Grace," and teach it to the children. "Singing by the passengers" was the way one superintendent announced the hymns.

Give the names of the absent members to your Look-out and Missionary Committees, and ask them to hunt up those who do not attend.

Before beginning the trip give the children a short account of Robt. Morrison, the first missionary to China.

Read carefully this number of the Epworth Era, which is a special number on China.

Order the literature. China for Juniors is worth the price asked for it all.

Choose for Guides boys and girls who speak or read distinctly.

Make the trip real by thorough preparation. Use a map of China. One may be drawn in outline from the small map supplied.

Order all supplies from F. C. Stephenson, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

Look in the December, January, February and March numbers of the Epworth Era for the first part of the missionary trip for the boys and girls.

May 5.—"How we show what we are." (Known by our deeds.) Prov. 20, 11.

The Bible is full of accounts of people who could do things. The heroes of Scripture were full of deeds. The stories of the Bible are those of active, energetic men and women. The judgment of God on our lives is according to what we do. God wants us all to be good first, and to be good for something next. He does not need any of us just for ornament. We are of use by what we can do. And our topic verse tells us plainly that we prove what we are by what we do. Character precedes conduct, and conduct is the fruit of character. Character is the sap that flows from root to twig through all the trees of human life. Conduct is the bloss-