

responsibility to one's clergyman than to one's King. Is this being faithful and loyal and single-hearted? If it has been so, oh, let it be so no more! How can "Jesus Only" be our motto, when we have not even said "Jesus first"?

The King's business *requires* haste. It is always pressing, and may never be put off. Much of it has to do with souls which may be in eternity to-morrow; and with opportunities which are gone for ever if not used then and there; there is no convenient season for it but "to-day." Often it is not really done at all, because it is not done in the spirit of holy haste.

We meet an unconverted friend again and again, and beat about the bush, and think to gain quiet influence and make way gradually, and call it judicious not to be in a hurry, when the real reason is that we are wanting in holy eagerness and courage to do the King's true business with that soul, and in nine such cases out of ten nothing ever comes out of it; but "As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Have we not found it so?

Delay in the Lord's errands is next to disobedience, and generally springs out of it, or issues in it. "God commanded me to make haste." Let us see to it that we can say, "I made haste, and delayed not to keep Thy commandments." We never know what regret and punishment delay in the King's business may bring upon ourselves. Amasa "tarried longer than the set time which he (the king) had appointed him," and the result was death to himself. Contrast the result in Abigail's case, where, except she had hastened, her household would have perished.

We find four rules, for doing the King's business, in His word: We are to do it,—first, "Heartily"; second, "Diligently"; third, "Faithfully"; fourth, "Speedily." Let us ask Him to give us the grace of energy to apply them this day to whatever He indicates as our part of His business, remembering that He said, "I must be about my Father's business."

Especially in that part of it which is between Himself and ourselves alone, let us never delay. Oh, the incalculable blessings that we have already lost by putting off our own dealings with our King! Abigail first "made haste" to meet David for mere safety; soon afterwards, she again "hastened and arose and went after the messengers of David, and became his wife."

Thus hastening, we shall rise from privilege to privilege, and "go from strength to strength."

What shall be our word for Jesus? Master, give it day by day;
Ever as the need arises, teach Thy children what to say.
Give us holy love and patience; grant us deep humility,
That of self we may be emptied, and our hearts be full of Thee;
Give us zeal and faith and fervor, make us winning, make us wise,
Single-hearted, strong, and fearless,—Thou hast called us, we will rise!
Let the might of Thy good Spirit go with every loving word;
And by hearts prepared and opened, be our message always heard!—*F. R. Havergal.*



Too often God's ships come laden to our wharves, but we are not there to discharge them. Too often His carriers bring love-letters, but we are asleep and they pass over our doors. Too often His blessings pass over our hills, but we do not catch their blessed fullness to fertilize and enrich our fields.—*Meyer.*

Notes on the Junior Topics.

By Lily M. Scott.

Habits.

Aug. 7.—Right habits and wrong ones. Prov. 6: 6-11, Luke 4: 16.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: Walking with God, Gen. : 24. Tuesday: Prayer, Ps. 55: 17. Wednesday: Praise, Ps. 34: 1. Thursday: Bible study, Acts 17: 11, 12. Friday: Church attendance, Ps. 42: 4. Saturday: Evil habits, Prov. 11: 19.

It is always well, when talking with or giving counsel to the young, to tell them what to *do*, rather than what *not* to do. The Daily Readings furnish some directions for habits, but in the meetings would it not be well to select certain habits which, if acquired, will be useful to the Juniors?

Suppose we select the three p's—promptness, punctuality, and perseverance. The minds of the Juniors cannot be too strongly impressed with the importance of these qualities. Carefully distinguish between promptness and rashness. Give little illustrations. Tell of the boy who, when asked to do anything, invariably responds, "Yes, in a minute." That boy, unless he conquers that bad habit, can meet with no success in life. Show the Juniors how God has given us an object-lesson in the arrangement of Nature's processes, and the revolutions of the heavenly bodies. What if, when springtime came, all the latent forces were to remain dormant until autumn? Many writers have defined genius as patience or perseverance.

When Napoleon was warned of what stood between him and earthly glory, he answered, "There shall be no Alps." Have the Juniors understand the spirit which says, "I'll find a way or make it."



David.

Aug. 14.—Lessons from the life of David. 1 Sam. 17: 38-50.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: After God's own heart, 1 Sam. 13: 14. Tuesday: Sparing his enemy, 1 Sam. 24: 1-7. Wednesday: Seeking God's guidance, 1 Sam. 30: 8-10, 17-19. Thursday: The love of his captains, 1 Chron. 11: 15-19. Friday: Sinning and repenting, Ps. 51: 1-4. Saturday: Sorrowing for Absalom, 2 Sam. 18: 33.

If these studies of Bible heroes are only made interesting, the Juniors will look forward eagerly to the meetings when these particular topics are discussed. Find out what the Juniors remember of the life of Samuel.

Have the Juniors give their own ideas of the peculiar qualities or possibilities possessed by David, which made him "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13: 14). Call attention to some of the strong points in David's character,—his generosity in sparing Saul's life (1 Sam. 24: 1-7), his kindness to those under him, thus winning their love to such an extent that they gladly risked their lives for him (1 Chron. 11: 15-19), and his love and sorrow for Absalom (2 Sam. 18: 33). The history of this man will show us three things: (1) That great honors are often followed by great trials. (2) That great trials generally bring unexpected alleviations—"The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." (3) No outward trials can compare in severity with the self-torture of wicked men. Saul allowed jealousy to enter his heart, and that made him unjust to David. Nevertheless, Saul had the worst of it—even in his anger he was afraid of David, who went in and out before his enemy with a circumspection more terrible than anger. Saul was afraid of David because the