

lighted scene, in which the writhing form looks terribly life-like, magnified to natural size; the torn flesh; the vain effort to drag the hands away from the torturing nails; the awful expression of utmost agony! It must harrow up the souls of the sensitive ones, like our little Hilda; and the duller and coarser grained among them will only be made more insensible to any future impression of the extent of our Lord's sufferings for their sake. You will not consent to Hilda's seeing any representation of the infinitely less painful manner of her father's death, but you have no compunction about showing her this hideous picture of the mortal agony of the Lord she loves so dearly. You would not allow your boys to see a newspaper cut of the hanging of a murderer whose crime they should abhor, but you would make them look at the most realistic representation you can find of the death struggle of the Holy One, whom you desire to have them love above all earthly friends. Don't torture the children's imaginations into insensibility. Learn from the reticence of the evangelists, who only say 'There they crucified him,' drawing a veil of reverence over the heart-rending details. Get your mind off the track of conventional habits. Think the true thoughts of a tender-hearted woman! Let your sympathy lead you to look at this question 'as a little child,' and then, I think, you will agree with me."

Mrs. Berkeley looked up through tears to say, "I do agree with you, Mark."—Sunday School Times.

### A Cripple's Talent.

An indolent boy, whose schooling had been chiefly remarkable for his resources for mischievous pranks, met with an accident which disabled him for life. In consequence of injuries affecting hip and spine he became an incurable cripple. His life hung in the balance for many months, and when he began to mend in general health it was without hope of his ever leaving his bed.

One day he was seized with a strong purpose. "I must work," he exclaimed to his mother. "I shall lose my mind if I lie here counting my aches and pains."

He asked her to prop him up with pillows and to fetch his school books. The pages disclosed an industry which had interfered with serious study. Fly-leaves and margins were illustrated with humorous faces and boldly drawn caricatures. Algebra and geometry were illumined with grotesque portraits of teachers and schoolmates. His friend contained a series of comic pictures illustrating Dido's romantic career and the adventures of her lover in the spirit world.

The cripple had thought of his one accomplishment, which had often brought him into disgrace at school for waste of time. He began by making pen and ink drawings to illustrate comical incidents and dialogues. A dozen of these were sent to an illustrated paper, and six were accepted. Encouraged by his success, he became a regular contributor to several comic journals, and ended by earning more money than his brothers, who were clerks in stores.

He was not strong enough to work more than a few hours morning and afternoon; but when his pencil was idle his mind was conjuring with grotesque fancies. Not satisfied with the wages received for quips and cranks and humorous cartoons he resolved to learn to etch, and finally became expert in the use of tools and acids. Perceiving that confinement indoors was restricting his work to interiors, he designed a bed on wheels which could be rolled under trees.

His health gradually failed, but ambition spurred him on. "Work has kept him alive," said his physician; "he will die without it." When too weak to use his pencil he passed quickly away. A life of physical anguish had been ennobled by heroic persistence in turning his one talent to good account.—Youth's Companion.

### The Wrong Side.

You have heard that old story of the gentleman who went into the Gobelin tapestry works in Paris and, standing behind the scenes, saw the skilled workmen busy making a splendid piece of tapestry. He saw them with threads of all colors in their hands weaving what seemed to him a great, ugly piece of patchwork, and he said, "I do not detect much beauty in that yet." The director of the loom replied, "No, not yet, but come again in a month and see it when it is finished." The man came back and saw the great piece of tapestry stretched out on the loom just as the finishing touches were being put to it. He said, "I do not see any great artistic beauty in that." "No," said the master workman, "I dare say you do not, but come with me." He then took him round to the other side of the loom. Oh, how wonderful, what a mingling of colors, what beauty of light and shade, what an exquisite design! Today we are looking on the wrong side of the loom, but "in the morning" the Master will take us round and show us the completed design from the divine side. Do you not see that today the Master has hold of the threads and is weaving in the warp and the woof according to the pattern which he alone knows? The dark and awkward patches that we see in our life, which seem to mar its beauty, will, in that morning, be seen in their true light, and we shall find them all to be part of a divine plan and purpose.—Sel.

## The Young People

EDITOR.

J. B. MORGAN.

Kindly address all communications for this department to Rev. J. B. Morgan, Aylesford, N. S. To insure publication, matter must be in the editor's hands on the Wednesday preceding the date of the issue for which it is intended.

Prayer Meeting Topic—February 19.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—A Missionary Church, Acts 13: 1-12.

Daily Bible Readings.

Monday, February 20.—Lamentations 1. Anguish in sorrow (vs. 16). Compare Jer. 14: 1-7.

Tuesday, February 21.—Lamentations 2. Derision added to sorrow (vs. 16). Compare Job 15: 10.

Wednesday, February 22.—Lamentations 3: 1-36. God afflicts unwillingly (vs. 33). Compare Heb. 12: 10.

Thursday, February 23.—Lamentations 3: 37-66. God redeems my life (vs. 58). Compare Ps. 71: 23.

Friday, February 24.—Lamentations 4. How is the gold become dim? (vs. 1). Compare 1 Chron. 28: 9.

Saturday, February 25.—Lamentations 5. "Thou, O Lord, remainest forever" (vs. 19). Compare Heb. 1: 12.

Prayer Meeting Topic—February 19th.

A missionary church, Acts 13: 1-12.

The church in Antioch had a large membership composed of both Jews and Gentiles. In this mixed soil, missionary seed germinated rapidly. Antioch became the radiating centre of apostolic Christianity, because the church of Christ in that city was,

A MISSIONARY CHURCH.

Notice, 1. This church was well supplied with teachers. Five teachers are mentioned in the narrative. The work of so large a church in so large a city would require many teachers. It is in the well officered church that the missionary spirit is usually strongest. Pastors and deacons after the apostolic patterns consider a church as a force whose operations and influence are to reach the ends of the earth. They keep their churches in touch with missionary commands, missionary claims, missionary movements and missionary successes. Any church thus led will be a missionary church.

2. This church was faithful to the work at home. "And as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Ministering to the Lord in one way or another is the true business of every church or Christian. The large number won for Christ in Antioch is the best evidence of the fidelity of the Antioch church to its home work. A church neglectful of its home work never hears the Holy Spirit's call to regions beyond. The idler in the home church very seldom becomes the leader in its mission school. From a faithful church the Holy Spirit called her most faithful teachers to do her work among the heathen. The same is true today. He calls the one "who cannot be spared" from the home church or Sunday School to work among the neglected ones. The reward for work well done is more work to do.

3. This church responded to the call of the Holy Spirit, vs. 3. The Holy Spirit asked the church to give up their beloved pastor, Barnabas, and their brilliant teacher Saul. There is no word that the church said, "If this work must be done, let some one of less prominence be sent to do it." The word simply tells of the church's response to her Leader's call. Saul received his call to this missionary work at his conversion. Barnabas had probably received his call before this date. But these calls to the individuals awaited the church's recognition before the workers were thrust forth to their work. In the church's parting blessing to their missionaries and prayers for their success we see the Christ-like spirit of a missionary church. Are we so ready to respond to the Holy Spirit's call to the larger though harder service?

4. Some results of the mission. The faithful student of "The Acts," will find many influences determining the route of Barnabas and Saul in this mission. He will find in this narrative also the foreshadowing of the results of all missionary work. They are, interest in the work, opposition to the work, triumph of the work. Sergius Paulus' desire to hear the word tells of interest aroused. Elymas, whose sin was rebuked by the purity of the gospel of Christ, opposed the work. Sergius Paulus believing tells of the Holy Spirit's triumph. Such have been the results of all missionary work. A missionary church will expect such.

R. OSGOOD MORSE.

February Conquest Meeting.

A communication from Miss Margaret Wood, of the W. B. M. U. Bureau of Missionary Literature, Amherst, N. S., informs us that the following tracts bearing on the February topic may be secured at the prices named: A Hindu Widow's True History, 2c.; Bimlipatam, 1c.; What is a Zenana? 1c.; Woman's Rights in India, 2c.; Why should we build a hospital in India, 1c.; Waste and Want, 1c.; A bit of Zenana work, 1c.

Among the Societies.

MIDDLE SACKVILLE.

Our Union is still living. At our last business meeting the following officers were chosen for the ensuing term: President, Mr. Albert Robinson; 1st vice president, Miss Beatrice Richardson; 2nd vice president, James Tingley; secretary, Miss Nellie Anderson; corresponding secretary, Miss Flora Clark; treasurer, Mr. E. S. Phinney; auditor, Eddie Melanson. We hold our meetings every Sunday night, the last Sunday in the month always being observed as Conquest meeting, when a missionary collection to be devoted to our work in the North West is taken. We heartily wish success to all our Unions, and enjoy hearing from them through our columns in MESSENGER AND VISITOR. F. CLARKE, Cor. Sec'y.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

The Main Street B. Y. P. U. has still a staunch corps of workers, who do not intend to desert what they have pledged themselves to support, and who are hoping and praying that the large number whose names are on our roll may begin to realize what a blessing they might receive for faithful service for our Master. At our annual business meeting, President, A. W. Gay; H. F. Gordon, Secretary; F. E. Flewelling, Treasurer; Miss L. Granville, Organist, and Mrs. N. C. Scott leader of Junior Union, were re-elected. While W. J. McAlary was made 1st Vice-President; J. Thompson, 2nd Vice-President, and F. G. Curry, Corresponding Secretary. During the past year the Missionary and Flower Committees have done good work. Meetings at Spar Cove every Thursday night and Sunday afternoon have been supplied with leaders and helpers, while much interest has been taken in Seamen's Mission, by those who go from this society once a month. Under the efficient teaching of Rev. J. A. Gordon, the Sacred Literature class has made considerable progress in the study of the "Doctrines of Our Faith." This class which meets every Monday night, numbered about thirty at the beginning of the Course, and though some have dropped out, is still very well attended. Some of the most interested members are older members of the church and congregation for whose sympathy, presence and help at our Wednesday evening meetings the Union would be very grateful. Visitors are made welcome at the class meetings and may freely enter into the discussions. Monday evening, January 23rd, we had a review of the first ten lessons of the Course, and then adjourned to the "Ladies Parlor," where the instruction committee served refreshments, and otherwise exerted themselves to make the social hour pass pleasantly. Lately a chorus choir has been formed under the leadership of Mr. W. J. McAlary, for the improvement of the singing at all social services of the church. All should join it who can sing and are willing to use their voices in a good cause. If every member of this Union tried to be "true to Christ in all things and at all times" this year, what would be the result? Officers and committees seem to be in earnest about their work. May the Lord help us to be faithful workers.

F. G. CURRY, Cor. Sec'y.

B. Y. P. U., FLORENCEVILLE, N. B.

We are pleased to report that the Florenceville B. Y. P. U. is still holding on its way; although our membership has been much reduced by a number of our young people leaving the place. During the year just passed, the meetings have been held quite regularly. At the beginning of the new year the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Blanche Estey; Vice-President, Geo. Boyer; Secretary, Miss Bertie Boyer; Treasurer, Miss Mary Estey. Our committees are more interested than formerly, and we hope to do better work for the Master in the year just entered than we have done here-to-fore.

Jan. 30th.

ONE INTERESTED.

WATERVILLE, N. S.

Although our society is not heard from very often, we are still endeavoring to do our work that has been given us to do. We are sorry to report that our meetings are small. There being a large number of our active members away from us. We are praying that God may awaken us to a sense of our duty that we may be up and doing while it is called today for the night of death cometh when we must lay our armor by and meet him above. May we all have that true spirit to worship Christ is our prayer.

ROSE M. SHAW, Cor. Sec'y.

HALIFAX, N. S.

On the evening of January 9th, a goodly number of the members of the B. Y. P. U. met at the home of the Pastor, Rev. A. C. Chute, and after an hour of social intercourse and music, Mr. W. F. Parker, in behalf of the Union, presented Mr. and Mrs. Chute with a handsome dinner set. They were very much gratified with this pleasant surprise, and the pastor in a few well-chosen words, expressed their thanks. We are glad to report steadily increasing interest in the devotional meetings. The various committees are doing good work. In addition to the lessons of the S. L. C., quite a number are taking up the Bible Reader's Course. L. E. STUART, Cor. Sec'y.

First Church, B. Y. P. U., Feb. 2nd.