

"The Kind of Minister a Boy Likes"

By M. D. M.

THERE has been lots of excitement at our house these last few weeks. Pa says they are going to invite a new minister. And I have heard Pa and some of the men of our church discussing the kind of minister we must have when Mr. K. goes. Then when the ladies call on Ma in the afternoon they talk of nothing else but the new minister and the kind of minister's wife that is needed to fill Mrs. K.'s place. And Pa and Ma have long talks together. But no one ever asks us boys what kind of a minister we would like. So an idea struck me the other day, and I asked Willie Moore if we could not have a meeting of some of the boys of our Junior League to talk over the kind of minister we would like. Then Willie and I would be a deputation, I think they call it, to wait upon father and ask him to look out for a minister that we boys would like. I guess our new preacher will have to be an awful good man to please us all.

Mother said we could have the meeting in our kitchen, and so we all gathered round the table. I told them that each fellow was to tell us one thing about the kind of minister he liked. I knew the boys felt a little strange so I told them I would start off, by telling them the kind of minister I liked. I liked one who knows a fellow when he sees him on the street, and calls him by his first name. Why, our minister has met me ten dozen times on the street and sometimes he would never notice me, and if he did, he would say: "Sonny, do you go to my church. Whose boy are you?" and I would tell him "I'm Mr. H.'s boy," and he would say, "O yes, I know your father." But he never seemed to know me. Some ministers treat boys as if they were no consequence; but they forget that we are what men are made of, and if it wasn't for us there would soon be no men in the world.

Earl Green, who is secretary of our Junior League, said we wanted a minister who would come to our meetings sometimes. He said when he lived in St. M. they had a minister, Mr. H., who came to their meetings and he would draw the funniest pictures on the black-board. Once he drew the picture of a man with a farm and house inside of him. We

all laughed and thought that would be a funny picture. But Earl said it represented a man who had spent all his money at the hotel and drank up a whole farm, while his little boys and their mother nearly starved. I tell you a talk like that makes a fellow feel like signing the pledge and fight whiskey all his life. I'm going to tell Pa that we want a minister who will come to our Junior League.

Tommy Brown said he liked a minister who carried a pleasant look, one who could laugh, and did not look glum and sour. Why, some ministers look most as cross as school-marms, and make a fellow feel like running round the block to get away from them. We want a preacher who likes to see boys have a good time, one who is jolly and can tell a good story. We like a minister who helps a fellow cheer up, and says "You'll be a man yet before your mother." A fellow feels an inch taller and a good deal better when he has a minister who takes an interest in him. We decided we wanted a minister who has not forgotten that he was a boy himself once, and who remembers that old saying "that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Then we Willie Moore, who is always telling us he is going to be a minister, said he wished we could get a minister who would preach a sermon to the boys sometimes. He said his cousin told him last summer that their preacher would sometimes give them a short sermon on Sunday morning before he preached to the grown people. The boys all shouted "Hurrah!" when they heard Willie's suggestion. We all agreed we wanted a minister who believed boys needed sermons as well as grown people. They say sermons are to make people good. I guess it would be easier to help a fellow to grow up good than to make him good after he has grown up bad. After our meeting was over mother gave us all a treat, and the boys went home.

I guess no preacher need expect a call to our church unless he is the kind of a minister the boys like, for Pa says he is going to see that the boys get their rights this time. He said he thought he would like that kind of a minister himself.

The Pastor and the Junior League

By REV. E. I. HART, B.A., SAULT STE. MARIE.

ONE day a sturdy little fellow entered a Junior League meeting. After looking around he asked, "Where is the preacher? I thought he was here." That question might be asked in the majority of our Junior Leagues—"Where is the preacher?" It is a lamentable fact that the average pastor, if there be a League in his church, seldom attends and if there is not a League, is indifferent to the organization of one. There is no work in connection with the church that offers such possibilities as that of the Junior League. The League presupposes boys and girls between the ages of six and sixteen. Statistics show that that is the golden age for conversions, so that the League furnishes the most promising and the most satisfactory field of evangelistic effort within the reach of the pastor, for more souls can be won for Christ in this field than in any other. Nowhere else are they found as accessible and as impressionable. How many pastors have conducted revival services, night after night, and have been disappointed in seeing only a few unconverted persons present, while at the same time in the homes of their people there were scores of boys and girls who by a little personal interest could have been led to decide for Christ, and by careful shepherding would grow up to be strong, intelligent and active workers in the church.

The minister's supreme opportunity is with the child. Would that every minister and probationer in our Connexion might grasp that fact! Shame on that man who considers it "infra dig." to be associated in work for the children, and imagines that it is only fit work for "petticoats." Such a man has not the spirit of Christ—"the children's great friend," and has forgotten the divine command, "Feed My Lambs."

If at all possible every pastor should have a Junior League in his church, and more than that, he should see that he himself has no small part in its management. In fact, the natural leader is the pastor. He can give the movement a

dignity and an influence that no other person can. "But I have not the time"—is the plea of a busy pastor. My brother, it is your business to so arrange your work as to find the time. Your purpose in entering the ministry was to win souls, and where they can be most readily and most successfully reached is the place for you to be. "But I have not the qualifications for such work"—is another ministerial excuse. It is wonderful how a man can be qualified and equipped for any work when he realizes that it is an important work and must be done. A little prayer, a little thought, an eye and an ear open for little suggestions here and there, a careful perusal of such periodicals as the EPWORTH ERA and the *Junior Worker's Quarterly* (published by the M. E. Church) and such hand-books as those that have been prepared by Amos Wells and our own Associate General Secretary of Epworth Leagues, will go a long way in equipping an earnest minister for the work.

Many a pastor has left a charge possibly knowing personally every adult member of his congregation, but only knowing a few of the boys and girls. Such a pastor has failed. The man who is working best for the church is the man who is doing most for the children, who makes it his duty to become acquainted with them, to know them by name, to win their friendship, to gain their hearts for Christ, and to train them for Christian service. Children are always most responsive, and appreciate personal interest and attention. There will be no difficulty in securing their attendance at the public services on Sunday for they will want to hear the man who is interested in them through the week. Through many of these boys and girls, parents will be reached and brought into closer sympathy and fellowship with the church. Brother Pastor, Junior League work pays! Invest your capital in it and you will soon discover that it brings in the largest dividends!