this life"—anxieties about worldly success—things not wrong in themselves and in their degree, but which are not subordinate to higher purposes. "And riches"—(Mark says the deceitfulness of riches—riches which give the impression that they are able to bestow what they cannot give and lure men on to moral injury. "And the pleasures of this life"—"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." But even pleasures, harmless in themselves, may become so absorbing as to choke man's higher life.

4. The Deep Mellow Soil (Matt. 13, 8, 23). Soundly converted men who (a) intelligently and obediently receive divine truth; (b) steadfastly cleave to Christian principles; and (c) bring forth fruit according to their ability.

ADDED POINTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

The Germans have a better name for the Parable of the Sower. They call it the Parable of the Four Kinds of Ground. This title goes right to the heart of the matter.

A wise sower will not only use good seed, but will use good judgment in sowing it, and pray that the fertilizing dew of the Holy Spirit may water the seed sown.

The sower scattered his seed broadcast. We are to sow beside all waters. After we have faithfully sown the seed, the responsibility for the harvest is in other hands.

Observe that the hardened pathway was made hard by the uses of lawful commerce—man and beast passing to and fro engaged in the work of finding daily bread.

A man stationed on Lookout Mountains may hold a silver quarter so close to the eye that all the spacious champaign stretched before him is hidden from his view. So, by holding the petty affairs of this life too close to the eye of the soul, a man may easily shut out the view of vast eternity.

"The birds of the air devoured it"—there is the bird critical, the bird of evil habit, the bird of low companionship, the bird of bad literature.

QUOTATIONS.

When the artist Thorwaldsen came back to Copenhagen from Rome, he brought with him more than the works of art that have made his name immortal. In the straw that wrapped the statuary were seeds of flowers that soon were blooming in the gardens of the Danish capital. The artist unconsciously scattered sweet flowers, whose beauty and perfume were to refresh and gladden his native city years after his hand was as cold as the chisel it so magically moved. So we unconsciously sow seeds by our character, our life, our words.—Peloubet.

I have seen beneath a microscope a seed three thousand years old start into instant germination when touched with a drop of water. So a human soul, apparently long dead, begins to grow when touched by the water of life.—Wilberforce.

"I never heard a single sermon," said a man who had attended church for twenty years. "I attended church, but my habit was, so soon as you began the sermon, to begin a review of last week's trade, and to anticipate and to arrange the busines of the next."—Guthrie.

"The wave is mighty, but the spray is weak;
And often thus our great and high resolves,
Grand in the foam like an ocean wave,
Break in the spray of nothing."

—Anon.

It has been noticed that the first (failure) is more the fault of careless, unattentive childhood; the second of ardent, shallow youth; the third of world, self-seeking age.—Alford.

# *Junior Department*

Conducted by REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Colborne, Ont., Vice-President in charge of the Junior League section of General Sunday-School and Epworth League Board. He invites correspondence from all Junior League workers to add interest to this Department of the ERA.

## "Now the Accepted Time"

When I have time, so many things I'll do
To make life happier and more fair
For those whose lives are crowded now with care,
I'll help to lift them from their low despair,
When I have time.

When I have time, the friend I love so well
Shall know no more these weary, toiling days;
I'll lead her feet in pleasant paths always,
And cheer her heart with words of sweetest praise,
When I have time.

When you have time! The friend you hold so dear
May be beyond the reach of your sweet intent;
May never know that you so kindly meant
To fill her life with sweet content,
When you had time.

Now is the time! Ah, friend, no longer wait
To scatter loving smiles and words of cheer
To those around whose lives are now so drear;
They may not meet you in the coming year—
Now is the time.

—Unknown.

## New Testament Study for Juniors at Home

### St. Paul

III.

Third group of twelve New Testament facts about St. Paul. Learn them. Write out the story in your own way, and mail to Mr. Bartlett.

25. Set apart as a missionary at Antioch. Acts 13. 1-3.

26. Barnabas, Saul, and John Mark go to Cyprus. Acts 13. 4, 5.

27. The Roman Governor is converted. Acts 13. 6-12.

28. Saul becomes known now as Paul. Acts 13. 9.

29. They go to Antioch in Pisidia. Acts 13. 14.

30. Paul preaches to them two Sabbaths. Acts 13. 14-48.

31. They are driven out and go to Iconium. Acts 13. 50-52.

32. Great numbers of people believe. Acts 14. 1.

33. They are forced to flee from Iconium. Acts 14. 2-6.

34. A cripple healed at Lystra. Acts 14. 7-18.

35. Paul stoned at Lystra. Acts 14. 19.

36. From Derbe they return again to Antioch in Syria, through Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia. Acts 14. 20-27.

This is known as Paul's First Missionary Journey.

As a sample of the kind of essays we want our juniors to write, read this one—the best we have received on Study II.

"THE LIFE OF SAUL UP TO HIS CONVERSION."

Saul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, about A.D. 2. He went to school in his native city until he was about twelve years old. He was the son of a wealthy, free-born Roman citizen, but as it was the custom for boys to learn a trade at the age of twelve, Saul learned tent-making.

His parents sent him to a large school in Jerusalem, and there, under a teacher, Gamaliel, he studied hard to get an education.

Saul, being a Jew, detested the Christians, and he, with many others, persecuted them in every imaginable way.

While he was yet in Jerusalem, he gathered together a band of these Jews, and stoned a very righteous man, Stephen by name. Saul did not stop here, but went into many other cities persecuting and tormenting the true believers.

One day he was on his way to the city of Damascus, to continue his work of persecution there, when a bright light shone around him; so bright that he was blinded, and he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Saul recognized the voice at once, and cried out, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

Saul was led by the hand to the city; but he never afterwards persecuted the people, but went about preaching the Gospel, for he had been converted and made one of the best men who lived in that day, laboring and trying to convert others.

FLOSSIE BUTTON.
Colborne Junior League.

Flossie, of course, has had the advantage of studying the story of St. Paul in the weekly League meeting. Such a course, made supplemental to the regular Topic Study may be made very entertaining and instructive. Let the superintendent first thoroughly master the recorded facts, then tell them in story form, and add from time to time additional items that will increase the learner's store of information. Use the blackboard or map to give an outline idea of the localities referred to in the story. Then allot certain portions of the Scripture record for home study, and in all be sure not to go too fast or the memory of the junior will fail to retain all the truths desired. This leads us to make a few observations on

THE BIBLE FOR CHILDREN.

That Bible study for the young is not very attractive, we will all admit. And yet the Bible should be a book of unique interest to children and youth. It is a most wonderful story book. The biographies, history, parables, and even the precepts of the Bible, should be made of great interest to our children by being stated in simple language and narrative form. Take Christ's parables. Explain to the child that a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, and that behind the facts of the story itself lie great moral truths that Jesus wanted to make plain. From the story to its moral purpose is a short step. State the facts of Bible Biography plainly and simply, and having the interest gained you have prepared the way for the great principles involved. In short, make the children's Bible study simple and entertaining if you would have them engage in it. Do not first allot a portion of the text for study. Tell the story first. Take, for instance, the lessons on St. Paul now current on this page. The story all through is as fascinating as any in all the world's biography. Let the superintendent know it, simply tell it, get one after another in the League to tell it over to the rest, and having been made acquainted with the facts thus, assign the Scripture necessary. The boy or girl will go through the 9th chapter of the Acts with avidity after having heard you tell the story in your own words: but if you merely say, "Read Acts ix and learn what you can about the conversion