

Junior Department

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Suppose.

Suppose, my little lady,
Your doll should break her head;
Could you make it whole by crying
Till your eyes and nose weep red?
And wouldn't it be pleasanter
To treat it as a joke,
And say you're glad 'twas doll's
And not your head that broke?

Suppose you're dressed for walking,
And the rain comes pouring down;
Will it clear off any sooner
Because you scold and frown?
And wouldn't it be nicer
For you to smile than pout,
And to make yourself dry in the house
When there is none without?

Suppose your task, my little man,
Is very hard to get;
Will it make it any easier
For you to sit and fret?
And wouldn't it be wiser,
Than wanting like a dunce,
To go to work in earnest
— And learn the thing at once?

Suppose that some boys have a horse,
And some a coach and pair;
Will it tire you less when walking
To say "It isn't fair"?
And wouldn't it be nobler
To keep your temper sweet,
And in your heart be thankful
You can walk upon your feet?

Suppose the world don't please you,
Nor the way some people do;
Do you think the whole creation
Will be altered just for you?
And isn't it, my boy or girl,
The wisest, bravest plan,
Whatever comes, or doesn't come,
To do the best you can.

—Phoebe Cary.

Life of Christ Studies.

Part II. of our "Junior Studies" textbook deals with our Lord's public work. There are thirteen lessons in it. During March, review all that you have studied. If you know by heart and in order, the twenty facts as given in the February Era, write them out to make sure of remembering them. Then add the following ten: (21) Preaching and baptizing in Judea (John 3, 22-26); (22) passing through Samaria, discourse with the woman at the well, the Gospel in Sychar (John 4, 1-42); (23) the imprisonment of John the Baptist (John 4, 43-45); (24) the nobleman's son (John 4, 46-54); (25) first rejection at Nazareth (Luke 4, 16-31); (26) Peter, Andrew, James and John called (Matt. 4, 18-22); (27) a day of miracles at Capernaum (Luke 4, 31-41); (28) preaching at Galilee (Mark 1, 35-45); (29) the raised man healed (Mark 2, 1-12); (30) the call of Matthew (Matt. 9, 9-13). These thirty facts cover eight weeks' studies in the text-book. If you have studied a little every day you should know them well. The work for this month is: Write from memory these 30 facts in order, mail your list to Mr. Bartlett, who will revise, correct, and return it to you. Remember that Mr. Crews will send a beautiful book to the Junior Leagues who does the best work in this way during three months, or up to last May next. In writing your lists never mind giving Scripture references. The events or facts as numbered will be sufficient.

Weekly Topics.

March 20.—"Am I my brother's keeper?" Rom. 14, 21.

Paul's own resolution and practice are shown in 1 Cor. 8, 13. Have this verse read. Ask why Paul was so resolved to deny himself? See Rom. 14, 15, and mark the word "charitably." It is "good" to do as one text says, because it is according to love. . . Show how every person is more or less influenced by the conduct of another. Ask how many of your juniors have done anything because they saw someone else doing it. (A boy begins to throw stones at a dog. Soon every boy within reach is doing the same. The influence of the first boy's conduct soon affected the rest.) An insensible influence for good or evil is constantly going out from us to others. That is the first lesson of the topic. Because of this truth, we must think of others when we do anything, and not only our courses. . . . Some things that it might be all right for us to do if we were living all alone on Robinson Crusoe's island would be very wrong for us to do in our own home town. No life is solitary. Paul said, "I will live to himself." Even girls and boys must bear this in mind. (Harry, who has several younger brothers, one day said to his mother, "I wish I wasn't the oldest." His mother asked why. He said: "Because the rest are always waiting for me to see what a fellow can't say anything or go anywhere but 'the kids' know it." A boy must be the right kind of a boy if he is going to have the right kind of influence. So whether it is in eating or drinking, speaking words or doing things, we must be careful that we do not lead anybody else astray. . . . In living in this way we are following the example of our Lord (See 1 John 3, 16). . . . Our responsibility for our influence is very great. So our example should be always good and helpful, else others will be made to stumble (trip up) by us. . . . Impress the minds of all with the beauty of helping others to be good, and the evil that is in making it easy for them to sin. (Show two sticks, one white and clean, the other black with soot or tar. Rub them together. The clean one gets dirty. The dirty one does not get clean. Both are soon soiled. . . . So it is with all company. . . . A good boy going with bad boys will soon get like them, etc. Keep yourself clean for your own sake first, and then for the sakes of all who daily rub up against.)

March 27th.—"Domestic Animals."—Prov. 12, 10.

The following outline is that given by Miss Robinson, in The Junior Workers Quarterly—a "manual of methods," published by the Western Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati, O.—and which we have repeatedly recommended to our Canadian workers:

"Truth.—The law of kindness includes domestic animals.

"Point of Contact.—Mrs. C.— went one afternoon to visit a friend. As she neared the house she found that Carlo had followed her. It was a bitterly cold day, and Carlo, though such a shaggy fellow, was not accustomed to staying out of doors, and would suffer if left outside. The situation was embarrassing, as the friend did not like dogs; but kindness prevailed, and Mrs. C.—, apologizing, asked if Carlo might come in out of the cold.

"Bible Stories.—Matt. 12, 11, 12; Luke 13, 15; Ex. 23, 4, 5; Deut. 22, 1-4, 5, 14; 1 Cor. 9, 9.

"Illustrations.—Work of the Humane Society. The large building in New York where old or sick animals may be sent, instead of being turned out to die. Hospitals for sick animals. The limiting of loads which horses may be made

to haul. Merciful ways of putting animals to death without pain. 'Beautiful Joe' and 'Black Beauty'.

"Application.—If Kitty is old and disagreeable, ask mother to give her a dose of chloroform; but do not kick her about or abuse her.

"If you are going to move, be sure that the cat and the dog are provided for, if you cannot take them with you. Do not leave them to become tramps, and perhaps starve to death.

"When you feel like teasing an animal, put yourself in its place and see how you would feel. Report cases of inhuman treatment of horses to the Humane Society. Use all your influence to have the horses kindly treated. Be sure that the horses and cows which may be committed to your care have plenty of food and water, and a clean place to sleep. No one can do more for the comfort of animals than the boys and girls.

Have you a Band of Mercy pledge in your League? If not, why not to-day ask all your juniors to promise to be considerate of and kind to all dumb animals? This sentiment is not always intentional; but is frequently the result of thoughtless neglect. All animals respond quickly to kind treatment, and show their appreciation of it in many ways. Many animals have shown a marvellous affection for their friends—(Teddy was only four years old. He lived on a farm. Old Joe was a white horse who enjoyed carrying Teddy on his back as much as the baby liked to ride there. Uncle Dick often lifted the boy to the horse's back and held him there for a ride around the barn-yard. Joe was always rewarded with an apple or piece of sugar from little Teddy's dimpled fist. One day when Joe was in the near pasture Teddy spied him and quietly stole away to the fence. He crawled through the rails to go. Joe never thinking about the bull, which was in the field. As the baby toddled over the sod toward the horse, the bull saw him, and with his head lowered began pawing the ground and bellowing angrily. Teddy was frightened when the ugly big brute came trotting towards him; but old Joe knew what to do. He ran at a gallop toward the bull, and as soon as he came near enough swung himself around and kicked the bull square in the side with both his hind feet. That turned his attention away from Teddy, and by the time the little chap had seen his way back to the fence, the hired man, who was ploughing in another field had run over with his whip, and with a loud crack and a yell had turned the bull aside and carried Teddy to the place where he had well patted, you may be sure, for his interference on Teddy's behalf.) Perhaps your juniors can tell some similar stories. Try them and see what an interesting meeting you will have. (See "Androcles and the Lion.")

April 3.—"Redeeming the time."—Col. 4, 5.

The meaning of our topic is to rescue or recover our time from waste—to improve it for wise and good purposes. A grasshopper half-starved with cold and hunger, came to a well-stored beehive at the approach of winter, and humbly begged the bees to relieve his wants with a few drops of honey. One of the bees asked him how he had spent his time all the summer, and why he had not laid up a store of food like them. "Truly," said he, "I spent my time very merrily, in drinking, dancing, and singing, and never once thought of winter." "Our plan is very different," said the bee; "we work hard all summer to get by a store of food against the season when we foresee we shall want it; but those who do nothing but drink, and dance, and sing in the summer must expect to starve in the winter." This is only a fable, but it