



OUR JUNIORS

"Train up a Child According to His Way."

A Thanksgiving Guest

The boy Augustine was full of thought
In the evening shadows dim;
He had folded his hands and said his
prayer
And sung his evening hymn.

But on his face was a wistful look
And in his eyes was a tear.
"O Mother, when a little child prays,
Does the Lord Christ always hear?"

"For I have asked him to come so oft,
Have watched at the open gate
For any Traveller that might be He,
From morning until late.

"And so, to-night, I told him again
To-morrow's Thanksgiving Day;
O dear Lord Christ, if it be thy will,
I pray Thee to pass this way.

"I wonder if He will hear and come."
The Mother spoke soft and low;
"If thou hast bid Him to Thanksgiving,
He will come, or send, I know."

The child was up at the morning light;
For his hope he could not rest.
He watched the hills and watched the
moor
For the coming of his Guest;

And about the middle of the day
The slither touched her boy;
"Lord Christ has sent the Thanksgiving
Guest."
He turned, with a holy joy.

And followed her to the household room;
And there, by the warm, bright fire,
Lay a little child, with hunger faint,
And stained with the wayside mire.
Shivering with cold, naked and sick,
With tears in his sad blue eyes;
The boy Augustine looked at him
With a wondering surprise;

For the servants hurried to and fro,
In their piteous service fleet;
And his Mother kneeling, bathed the
wounds,
On the small, bare, frozen feet.

And he watched her till his tender heart
Was filled with a sorrow wild;
For he thought, "Lord Christ has surely
come,
And come as a little child;

"And has found the way too long and
hard."
O innocent, childish heart,
To keep such a tender festival,
With the Christ Child set apart!

And never, never, have wiser years
Brought him half such sweet content
As filled the Thanksgiving Day he kept
With the child that Jesus sent.

—Selected.

Scripture Enigma

I am a verse in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

My 9, 13, 8, 15, is one of the United States.

My 12, 20, 19, 7, 21, is a city in Arabia.

My 11, 14, 16, 17, is a city in England.

My 1, 5, 21, 13, 18, is a city in Italy.

My 4, 11, 9, 21, 3, is a country in Asia.

My 10, 12, 2, 20, is an ancient Bible city.

My 6, 5, 2, 21, is a city in Switzerland.

Weekly Topic Studies

AUGUST 21.—CHRIST'S FRIENDS AT THE SUPPER.—John 13: 1-17.

It is said that the enemies of Jesus were the religious leaders of the Jewish nation, proud, false-hearted men. The Bible says they loved darkness rather than light, for their deeds were evil. Jesus and his companions had walked from Bethany along the same road over which he had been carried in triumph a few days before. Coming to Jerusalem they entered a friend's house, and in the guest-chamber Jesus kept the last Passover with them. They had gathered around the table with Jesus at the head. In our Scripture lesson we learn of what Jesus did that night to teach them and us the lesson of humility. They listened to His wonderful words full of comfort, for He was going to leave them. Weaving together the words of Matthew, Mark and Luke and of Paul in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, we have the story of what followed. "As they were eating, Jesus took bread," etc. "And He took the cup," etc. Explain when and how we may take this Sacrament, and that this solemn service was not for the Apostles alone. But it is for all who love Jesus, and is now called the Lord's Supper. Before Jesus left that room He said to them, "Let not your heart be troubled." He told them that their obedience would prove their love for Him. He promised that the Spirit of God would come into their hearts, giving them so much help and joy that He called it the "Comforter." Then he prayed a wonderful prayer. As He prayed so may we. (Find other references to prayer.) After singing they went out. Do we prize the advice and words of our friends as we might?

AUGUST 28.—JAPAN. A STUDY OF THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

There are many accessories for the study of Japan, so that this should be one of the most interesting meetings which the Juniors have yet had. Life and customs in the Sunrise Kingdom are entirely different from ours, yet we should impress upon the children that our ways are just as strange to the Japanese, and that, though they speak a strange language and though their manners are different from ours, they, too, are children of the same Heavenly Father.

The Missionary Object Lessons on Japan will be a great help to the Superintendent in this meeting. It is far easier to teach through the eye than through the ear, alone, and life in Japan will be much more real to the children after they have seen and handled some of the objects which are in daily use among the Japanese people. The little book of directions accompanying the box of curios will help the Super-Intendent in her work.

"Japan for Juniors" contains in simple form descriptions of the country and of the people. It would be possible to assign certain sections from this book to the Juniors who are to take part in the meeting.

The set of Japan cards give some splendid illustrations of life in that country. On the back of every card is a description which may be elaborated by the Superintendent, and each card in this way will form the basis of an interesting story or talk. The card showing the

school will illustrate a talk upon the school system of Japan, which is second to none in the world. So well it is carried out that over ninety per cent. of the children of school age in Japan are in the schools.

The Great Buddha tells the story of the religion of Japan, and why our missionaries have gone there. Though they are being educated—though their country is progressing along almost every line, these boys and girls are many of them, ignorant of the one true God. They are bowing down to idols such as are pictured here.

The letters in the *Missionary Bulletin* from our missionaries in Japan will be helpful in illustrating the life of the people. Besides this, they are of great interest because they are from our own representatives.

Information for this meeting will be found in the *Bulletin*, \$1.00 per year; Japan for Juniors, 20 cents; Missionary Object Lessons on Japan, \$1.50; Japan cards, one dozen in a package, 20 cents. Order from F. C. Stephenson, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.—C. C. S.

SEPTEMBER 4.—IN THE DARKNESS OF THE GARDEN.—Matt. 26: 36-46.

The hymn of joy and praise in the Upper room was to be followed by words of sadness in Gethsemane. This place was about half a mile outside the city, and into this garden Jesus had often gone with His disciples. Leaving the rest at the entrance, He took Peter, James and John farther on. These three companions had witnessed His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, and His power in the death-chamber of the daughter of Jairus, and were to see His agony in Gethsemane. Jesus had only a few hours before shown His love and sympathy for them, and now they had an opportunity to comfort Him. What did he do, however? Jesus knelt and prayed to His Father, and so heavy did He feel the weight of sorrow resting upon Him that it has been said that, instead of sweat, great drops of blood fell upon the grass, and the white flowers near by were made red. Three times Jesus came and found sleeping disciples. Might they not have watched with Him? Would we not have tried to do so? He lovingly excused them, saying what? Was ever a friend so true and so kind as Jesus? What can we do in return for all His love to us? Like Jesus do we ever go into our Garden of Gethsemane? When we do are we ever alone? Who is always near to help, comfort and bless us in every little trouble? The story has only been touched upon here. The Junior Superintendents must, of course, develop it for themselves. It is only possible to give a few suggestions in the space allotted to these topics. If at any time further help is required, do not hesitate to write in good time to the Central Office, 35 Richmond St. West. We will be glad to assist you. In fact, will you not write more frequently and tell the General Secretary about your plans and work?

SEPTEMBER 11.—THE TRAITOR AMONG CHRIST'S FRIENDS.—Luke 22: 1-6.

We have not talked much about one of the Apostles, but must say something about him now—Judas Iscariot, who betrayed His Master. Judas had not come from Galilee like the rest of his companions of Jesus, but from Judea. He was no doubt a clever business man, and the Disciples had made him their treasurer to carry the bag containing what little money belonged to them. They trusted him. Should this not have made him careful and

"The formation of character is always better than the reformation."