

JUNIOR LEAGUE PAGE.

IN CHARGE OF

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My First Letter

TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

My Dear Young Friends,—I am very glad of the privilege of writing to you in this way. I shall hope to reach by my letters in the CAMPAIGNER many boys and girls that I have not seen, and do not know. And I hope some of you will write to me, and so I shall become acquainted with you. I am sure you sometimes think of the great debt we all owe to God for the Gospel. What would we be without it? It is because we have had God's Holy Word taught to us all our lives that we are so much better off in every way than many millions of people who have never heard of our Saviour's love. Now, when we owe a debt what should we do about it? "Pay it," I am sure you will say. Yes, and I would add, "as soon as we can." But can we pay our debt to God for the Gospel? If so, how? There are some ways in which God asks us to show our thanks for what He has given us, and in this letter I am going to tell you of *one* of them. It is by *telling of His goodness to others*. We can never really pay back all we owe to God; but we can *pass on* His gift to others, and so help them to see its power and blessing. God has not given us His Word to keep to ourselves, or for ourselves only. Jesus said we were to "witness" about it and for Him. Do you know what that means? Just two things, *KNOW* and *TELL*. We must first know, and then tell what we know. If we do not know His Word we cannot tell it to others. That is why we should all study it. Then we can tell it. This is the work of the great Missionary Society, and every Junior should be a member of this Society and so help send the Bible to all people. When the angel told the shepherds about the birth of our Lord, he said the tidings were to go to "all people." When the angels sang their chorus of praise, they took in all the "earth" in the sweet promise of "peace." Now, the only way the whole world can be told of this Saviour is through someone who knows of Him going to tell them. This is missionary work. Some day some of you, perhaps, will go to other lands to tell about Jesus. Till then you can *study* about missions, *pray* for the heathen, and *give* to help support the missionaries. So you see, that even now, if you cannot go, you can help send someone else to preach Christ. In this way, everyone of you may belong to the Missionary Society. Do you know *why* we ought to spread the Gospel over all the earth? Not only because the whole earth needs it; but because our Saviour tells us to. He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Have you any idea how many people there are in "all the world"? Just think! 1,500,000,000 (fifteen hundred millions of human beings). See how long it would take you to count a million, and then you will have an idea what this vast number means. And of all these people about 1,000,000,000, or two thirds of them, do not know Jesus Christ. Do you not think we should hurry to tell them, when we *know*? I am going to tell you some more things about missions, and I hope you will try to learn and remember them. Here

they are: The first Foreign Missionary Society was commenced in 1792 by a man named William Carey. All the money this Society had to spend in its first year's work was about \$400. Not much, was it? Well, after one hundred years had passed away, this one society had increased to 280 societies, and in 1892 they spent about \$14,500,000. That seems a very large sum to spend in one year, does it not? But, after all, it is only about one-half as much as Canada spent for strong drink in that same year. Just think, my young friends, all the world spent in one year about one-half as much for foreign missions as we in Canada alone spent for whisky and other kinds of liquor that make men drunk!

What a terrible curse is strong drink, and how much money is wasted in it every year. Let us do all we can to stop the awful business. Well, these fourteen and a half millions of dollars help keep up about fifty thousand people, who are at work for Jesus in foreign lands. Do not think that all these fifty thousand people are white missionaries, for the most of them are not. Thousands of these are converted heathens, who, having learned to love God, are preaching His Gospel to their different peoples. We call them "native pastors," "native teachers," or "native helpers," because they are natives of (that is, they were born in) the countries where they are at work. Of course, there are very many children in these lands. The missionaries have started about seven thousand Sunday schools in the different countries, and there are more than a million Sunday school scholars being taught the Word of God in them. Think what an army for Christ all these boys and girls will make after a few years if they are now taught to love and serve Him. They study the same Bible as we do. It has been written by the missionaries in the different languages they speak. It was in 1804 that the first Bible Society was formed to send the Bible into all the world. Now there are over eighty different societies doing this same work, and the Word of God is printed in about three hundred and fifty different tongues, so you see there are very many different kinds of languages spoken on the earth, but only one Bible that can tell all these people how to live as God wants them to. Still there are very many people who have no Bibles to read, and it is our work to help send them, so that the day will soon come when all the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God. Since 1804 about 350,000,000 copies of God's Word have been scattered all over this world. What a great blessing they have been! We should all be glad that there are more Bibles in the world to-day than ever before. Let us all pray that the time will soon come when everybody shall know the "good tidings of great joy." All those who have not heard of salvation through Christ must be told of it before the Lord's command is fully obeyed, and every Junior League and Mission Band in our Church should unite with those of all Churches in doing what can be done *at once*.

Now, dear Juniors, I hope you will study what I have written, and I think this is enough for this month. Next month I shall tell you about our own Missionary Society,