

Junior Department

All communications for this Department should be directed to REV. S. BARTLETT, Box 716, Napanee, Ontario. He invites the co-operation of all junior workers in making these pages both bright and profitable.

Bobby Jones and I.

"When I was little," said Bobby Jones.

"When you were what?" said I.

"When I was little," he happily replied.

"With a flash in his bright blue eye.

"Why, didn't you know I was little once?"

Said Bobby Jones to me,

"The littlest, teeniest little tot

That ever a man did see."

And I never confided to Bobby Jones,

And I hope he never was told,

That he at that time was still—

He was only five years old.

And I would say to all parents who

Are blessed with boys like him,

If they, tho' small, think they're great

and tall,

Just humor them in that whim.

—George V. Drake, in Harper's Bazaar.

Prize Bible Questions.

Note:—This is necessarily written early in March so as to have the "Era" printed for April in good time, so we cannot give the final quarterly report until our next paper. We have a lot of answers to examine, yet wonder why there are not more. If every junior superintendent were as earnest as the superintendent of Oban League there would be hundreds of replies from diligent young searchers of God's word all over Canada. She is five miles away from a postoffice, and what that means in the winter many of us know. Her juniors do not see the "Era" save through her, yet she has written out a copy for each one of her members. Many creditable answers have come to Mr. Bartlett, and we could not think of closing the competition without giving the Oban juniors a fair opportunity of sending their replies. Even if they cannot be in by the 15th, Miss King, the superintendent in question, wrote on February 19th telling of the interest the juniors were taking in it, and, referring to one little girl, says:—"She got so interested in this matter that she forgot everything else for two days." Well done, Oban! Who says the Bible is a dull book, or studying it is drudgery? What a country League is doing, surely our more favored Leagues may do. Wake up! Let the villages, towns and cities all take part. We would sooner have hundreds of answers than scores. Send them in!

Our exercise this month is

ABOUT BAKING.

1. To what did St. Paul compare old leaven?
2. What prisoner was supplied daily with a piece of bread out of the baker's street in Jerusalem?
3. When an offering of fine flour and oil, baked in a frying-pan, was brought to the priests of Israel, what were they told to do with a part of it?
4. What did the prophet mean who said: "The day cometh that shall burn as an oven"?
5. What tribe was compared to a cake not turned?
6. For whom did a poor widow at one time, and at another time an angel, bake a cake?
7. Christ compares the Kingdom of Heaven to leaven; mention the two chief points of likeness.
8. Twelve fresh cakes were offered every Sabbath in the tabernacle; what was put on each? What lesson may we draw from this?

(Write out the answers neatly and send to Mr. Bartlett, Napanee, as soon as possible, by the 20th of April, at latest. If not already told, give your age. Prizes in books will be given to the best two winners who answer the April, May and June questions.)

We would like all our readers to learn and remember this:—

—GEORGIA MAXIM.

Don't be discouraged—keep a tryin'.

An' you will get your wish;

Sometimes the very shortest line

Pulls up the biggest fish.

Weekly Topic Studies

April 19.—How the Resurrection is like Spring. 1 Cor. 15: 35-44.

Every season of the year is a parable containing lessons of God's goodness, and showing forth His power. The spring is especially attractive. The tight grip of the Frost King is relaxed, and Nature is released into life and beauty. The winter speaks of apparent death. The leaves have all fallen, the trees are bare, the flowers are faded and gone, and the grass is brown and dead. And Jesus died. The light of His life seemed to be put out in the darkness of death and in the cold, dread sepulchre his body was laid away. And so we die! Summer lies away, bleak winter comes on, and in the course of life's passing seasons we all, one by one, pass away. The autumn, with its falling leaves and dying flowers, would be a sad season indeed if there was no promise of a coming springtime. The night of the crucifixion was a sad and cheerless one to the disciples of Christ. But he had said, "The third day he shall rise again." And he did. Our death-day would be a very sad one if he had not risen. His resurrection from the dead is an assurance to us that we, too, shall rise. As the spring teaches us of renewing life in all nature about us, the resurrection of Christ tells us of life eternal. (1) So the resurrection is like spring in reminding us that our Lord is our life. "I am the resurrection and the life."

"Life from the dead is in that word,
'Tis immortality."

God delights in life. "I am come that ye may have life, and that ye may have it more abundantly." One of the ultimate purposes of God is that death shall be destroyed. . . . (2) This spring-time of life shows the mighty power of God. Every sunbeam that melts the ice, every raindrop that helps the snow to thaw is a thing of might. Silently the sun shines, softly the spring showers fall; but grim old winter is forced to quit his hold of the earth and retire defeated. . . . As in nature, so in spiritual things. . . .

The power of God was shown in the resurrection of our Saviour, and shall be in ours. Now, in defeating sin in us, so that we "be risen with Christ" unto a holy life, and, by-and-by, when we come forth from the graves in which our bodies are to live forever with him in glory, the power of the God of all grace is wonderfully seen. . . . (3) Springtime life is very beautiful. So with the resurrection. "The beauty of the Lord" is "the beauty of holiness," and who would appear with him in glory, we shall "shine by-forever and ever." Every opening bud, every expanding leaf or flower, every growing blade of grass in springtime is beautiful after the bleak and barren winter has gone.

"To every purer eye

Th' informing Author in His work ap-

pears;

Chief, lovely spring, in thee, and thy soft

The smiling God is seen."

How beautiful was the appearance of our Lord after his resurrection. . . . And in the glad and happy paradise to which we may go through him, no sin, sickness, disease, accident or death can disfigure any of the glorious works of God. All is beauty there.

So let us remember these three great truths: Let us remember, "so shall Easter Sunday bring us hope and gladness as we think of the Lord's victory over death and the grave, and of our coming conquest in his name at last and forever.

April 19.—How to spend the Lord's Day. Ex.—20: 8-11; Lu. 4: 15, 16.

After reading the prescribed scripture lessons, turn to Mark 1st chap., and study how our Lord spent one Sabbath Day. His way of spending it is surely a safe pattern for us. Commence at v. 21 and study to the 34th verse. (1) Part of this day our Lord spent in worship. "He entered into the synagogue." "This was the Jewish place of weekly worship. So we should all go to church on the Lord's own day." (2) Another thing our Lord did follows: He "taught." That is a poorly spent Sabbath if we fail to learn more of the truth. So it is right to go to Sunday-school or to junior League to teach and learn God's word. (3) Our Lord cast out evil. (See vs. 23-27.) So it is right for us to do good to the sick on Sunday. (4) Part of this day our Lord spent in help at home. (See vs. 29-31.) The "house of life and intercourse." Let Sunday be a home day, not one for visiting. Spend a good part of it with your own family. (5) Our Lord spent part of this day in rest. During the latter part of the day he was doubtless resting. (6) The good and personal benefits centered. (See vs. 32-34.)

(Let some bright junior recite "At even e'er the sun was set"—hymn No. 353 in our Canadian Hymnal). From this example of Christ we are safe in keeping our Sabbath.

1.—By abstaining from

- (1) Sinful thoughts, words and conduct.
- (2) Idleness and sloth.
- (3) Pleasure for its own sake, especially visiting.

II.—By performing

- (1) The duties of the sanctuary.
- (2) Family worship and intercourse.
- (3) Works of necessity and mercy.

III.—We should keep the Sabbath

- (1) In the spirit of reverent worship.
- (2) With gratitude to the creator and redeemer.
- (3) In joyous anticipation of heaven—the eternal Sabbath.

Make a summary such as is here suggested, the close of your study. "How to spend the Lord's Day."

Loving worship.

Ordinary work postponed.

Reading God's Word.

Do good to the sick and poor.

Sanctuary and Sunday-school.

Delight in prayer.

Assist to make home happy.

Young people's meeting never forgotten.

In this way we may make our earthly Sabbath a blessing, and prepare for God's eternal day in glory everlasting.

April 26.—What we can learn from the rain. Gen. 9: 13-15; Matt. 5: 44, 45.

"April showers!" They are full of lessons for us. Here are some thoughts to work out, e.g.:

- (1) The rain is God's gift. (Ps. 147: 8, is one of many texts to illustrate this. Find others.)
- (2) God sends the rain for blessing.

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