

## Junior Topics

### NOV. 17.—WEAKENED AMBITION. Phil. 4: 13.

"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand, but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

"When a boy goes wrong, a man of to-morrow dies."

"A man is a unit, a boy is a whole multiplication table."

"When a man is won for Christ a life is saved, but when a boy is won a whole lifetime is saved."

We all have ideals. We all build castles. We all dream dreams. Tell of some of the great men who have had dreams, and so have accomplished wonders, as Marconi, the inventor of the wireless telegraph system. A strong body, an active mind, and a pure heart are essentials for the attaining of high ideals and the success of our ambitions. Name some of the evils which tend to weaken the ambition, dwarf the intellect, and spoil the character. Repeat the text as above. When is the best time for seed sowing? Stories may be told of how the ambition may be weakened by the use of cigarettes, opium and other drugs, and alcohol. No boy or girl can amount to much in the world to-day, if he or she lacks ambition. Emphasize the truth—"Avoid whatever impairs the body or dulls the mind."

### NOV. 24.—CHINA AND SOME OF ITS PEOPLE. Psa. 96.

Some little time ago, Dr. Stephenson's guides took us to China where we visited the mission stations of our own Methodist Church. By writing to his office, you will be able to obtain helps for our further study. First, we should have a copy of the book "China for Juniors." There our Superintendent, no doubt, has already studied "Heal the Sick," "The Heart of Sz-Chuan," "From Opium Fiend to Preacher," and other books on China, so that we will have a delightful time together as we learn more of that great land.

See if you can answer the questions on Chapter I.

1. Give five names by which China is known?

2. Where is it mentioned in the Bible? Give book, chapter and verse!

3. How many provinces are there in China proper?

4. How do these compare in position with the United States?

5. How far does navigation extend up the Yangtze?

6. Why was the Great Wall built?

7. How many people in China? What proportion is this to the population of the world?

Use a map of China. Bear in mind the meaning of some of the words (see key). We take from the book a suggested programme:—(1) Singing; (2) Prayer; (3) Roll Call (Responses: Names of Chinese cities, rivers, mountains, etc.); (4) Three minute paper on rivers of China; (5) Life on a house-boat (story); (6) Map talk; (7) Bible Promises.—This may be varied to suit local conditions.

#### CHINESE PROVERBS.

A stone lion does not fear the rain.

No needle has a point at both ends.

An ape may sit on a throne.

Pure gold does not fear the fire.

A big heart is better than a big house.

False humanity is genuine arrogance.

A little man may have a large heart.

If the farmer is diligent, the soil will not be lazy.

A stupid thief stops his ears when stealing the bell.

Hold your temper for a moment and avoid a hundred days of sorrow.

Everything he knows a little, but he knows but little of everything.

The money-maker is never weary; the weary man never makes money.

If you know how, the thing is not hard; if it is hard, then you don't know how.

### DEC. 1.—CONSCIENCE AS A GUIDE. Acts 24: 16; 1 Peter 3: 16, 17.

"God intends the conscience to be a monitor." "Conscience must be educated to the right to be a good guide."

Why did Paul deem himself unworthy to be called a disciple? Compare Acts 23: 1; Heb. 9: 14; and Heb. 10: 22. Is there a good conscience, a guide? Is there an evil conscience to lead us astray? Conscience—bearing witness. Rom. 2: 15; 9: 1; 2 Cor. 1: 12. For conscience sake. 1 Cor. 10: 25, 27, 28. Weak conscience. 1 Cor. 8: 10, 12. A good conscience. 1 Tim. 1: 5, 19; Heb. 13: 18. These and



IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME.

other passages might be used to emphasize the meaning of the truth as embodied in the topic. As the mariner has the compass to guide him as to the route his ship shall take, so we have the conscience to aid us in our course through life. "Man is a pilgrim, and conscience is the guide, leading him safely through forests and thickets, restraining from the paths of wrong, pointing out the ways of right. Man is a voyager and conscience is his compass. The sails may be swept away, and the engines stopped, but the voyager yet may be saved if only the compass is kept."

"Whatever creed be taught, or land be trod,

Man's conscience is the oracle of God."

—Byron.

### DEC. 8.—SELF-RESPECT. Rom. 8: 16, 17; 1 Tim. 4: 12.

"There is an art of right living."

Truth.—The knowledge of right-doing brings self-respect.

Never esteem anything as advantageous which shall make these break thy good or lose thy self-respect. — Marcus Aurelius.

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, these three alone lead life to sovereign power."—Tennyson.

"Oneself appreciating how whole years outweigh."—Pope.

"This above all; to thine own self be true."—Shakespeare.

"Ofttimes nothing profits more than self-esteem grounded on justice and right."—Milton.

"But most of all respect thyself."—Pythagoras.

Respect for oneself should be like respect for another, based on worth.

Wealth, knowledge, position or ability. Not necessary to one's conviction that he is trying to do right and thus entitled to respect. The habit of self-respect breeds higher ideals and leads to better living.

A good act entitles one to the respect of the one who knows of it—self.

Self-esteem and self-conceit do not entitle us to respect of ourselves or others.

"Be not wise in your own conceit" but be humble, truthful, honest, faithful and "God who seeth in secret shall reward you openly."

Paul said, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things," for as a man thinketh, so is he. Thus win self-respect. Jesus Christ the first inspirer and teacher of self-respect when he tells the people they are all "Sons of God."

Watch a boy who has smoked a cigarette when he thought mother would not know it. Instead of walking with his head up as though he was a soldier, he acts as though he was ashamed of himself. He cannot really feel like a man and do wrong.

See that girl who is so gay and happy when the teacher speaks to her she looks her straight in the eye for she knows she has been perfectly fair in her examination and she respected herself.—Junior Workers' Quarterly.

In some gathering twilight we shall slip our moorings and silently steal away across a tideless sea. There may be no response from friendly craft. The silent hush of a gathering night is going to hide us when the dip of the sail bends to some outward-going tide. The voyage would be lonely were it not that we have raised the anchor and expect to reach the beautiful, mystic Isle of "Somewhere." There will be a few anchored near who will brush silent tears away when they miss our barque. But after a while we shall reach a mooring sheltered from every storm and gale. And then, how the fancy relieves the thought, we shall greet our loved and lost who have sailed this same sea before us. Yes! we do steal away, only to anchor in more peaceful seas.—J. M. N.