



Junior Department.

This Department is in charge of REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Malcom, Ont. All communications bearing on Junior work should be sent to his address. He invites the cooperation of all Junior workers in making this page both bright and profitable.

A Gentlemanly Boy.

A gentle boy, a manly boy,

Is the boy I love to see;

An honest boy, an upright boy,

Is the boy of boys for me.

The gentle boy guards well his lips,

Last words that fall may grieve;

The manly boy will never stoop

To meanness, nor deceive.

An honest boy clings to the right

Through seasons foul and fair;

An upright boy will faithful be

When trusted anywhere.

The gentle boy, the manly boy,

Upright and honest, too,

Will always find a host of friends

Among the good and true.

He reaps reward in doing good,

Finds joy in giving joy,

And earns the right to bear the name—

"A gentlemanly boy."

—H. L. Charles, in "Temperance Record."

Scripture Examination.

(The second study in "The Gospels," as printed in the January Era should have been headed "Why" instead of "Who." It was an oversight of the printers.)

FOR BOTH CLASSES I AND II.

Tell in your own words why Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote their Gospels.

Remember that all answers must reach me before February 10th, or they will be too late for examination. The winners of the two handsome prizes described in last month's Era will be named in the March number; but the prizes will be sent to the successful candidates before then, from the office of the General Secretary in Toronto.

The following are copies of letters recently received, and are samples of many others I would like to receive from Junior Leagues all over Canada. Write to me. Tell me of your good times, and if I can I shall help you over your difficulties. I want to hear from you all. Remember to sign your name, for you will see that one of my letters is unsigned, and I am not wise enough to know who wrote so nicely:

Sincec Junior Epworth League.

We have a splendid Society here of about fifty members. The meetings are held every Sabbath morning, and are led by picked Senior Epworthians. Eight months ago the Juniors began collecting postage stamps. The money made by their sale was given to the missionary cause. The society being asked recently for \$10 for the Forward Movement for Missions, it was decided to have a Christmas entertainment. To say that this scheme was entirely successful is to put it mildly. The receipts from a silver collection exceeded the required amount by \$4. The children made up a number of scrap-books for Christmas distribution, one of which was sent to the Children's Hospital, Toronto. We work, we live for the Master, and He is blessing our toil.

S. W. W. LEMON.

Whitechurch Junior League.

Our Junior League was organized about the beginning of October with a membership of fifteen. Since then nine more have joined us, and two of our members have now away. As a rule, we have an attendance of fourteen or fifteen. We meet on Sunday, after Sunday School. We have held our regular meetings every Sunday since our organization excepting the Sundays of our anniversary and of the Presbyterian anniversary services.

We have two committees, Missionary and Temperance. Each committee has a motto, the Temperance being "Temperance in all things," and the Missionary, "The world for Jesus." Our Epworth League colors are white and red. White represents purity, and red is symbolical of the blood. Those who wear the badges are expected to keep from using slang. Our Junior League took charge of the church decorations for the anniversary services. They consisted of flowers, evergreens and mottoes. We also took charge of the meeting of the Senior League one night. We had a Temperance programme. We purpose doing so again; the programme is to be on missionary lines. We are sorry that the topics for the Junior League are not in the Era. We wish to hear from other leagues. Wishing all our Junior Leagues a Happy New Year. Signed in behalf of our League.

Weekly Topics.

(The Editor has kindly placed an additional column at the disposal of the Juniors, so we shall be able to consider the weekly topics regularly, and this will please and help a great many I know, for quite a number have been asking for them again.)

TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 4TH.—Matt. 7: 21-27. "What will make us successful?"

The Scripture lesson teaches us that true success does not consist of mere outward show. Two men built houses for themselves. I suppose the houses both looked well, indeed I think the house of the man who was not particular about the foundation looked better than the other. He did not take time to make his house strong; but looked only at appearances. The other man tried to be thorough in his work and made his house strong. The difference in the fates of the houses when the storm came shows us that only those who have been thorough in their work may expect to stand the strain and test of the trial that is coming to all some day. Do not, dear Juniors, think that anything will do in life if it looks well. Make your foundation strong, build slowly but surely, and make everything in your characters and lives ready for the day of trial, when "every man's work shall be tried," and "God shall bring every work into judgment." Make it clear to your Juniors, leaders, that success cannot be obtained except through sustained effort. Encourage them to "dig deep" and lay the foundation on the Rock. So shall success be theirs at length, and God shall say "Well done!"

TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 11TH.—Matt. 13: 44-46. "Seek first the Kingdom of God."

As we are studying from the parables of Jesus, it will be well for the Juniors to become well drilled in this chapter of parables. Let them count the number of parables in this one chapter. Explain the meaning, "Kingdom of God." It was the great theme of Jesus. He showed it in all the aspects in the various pictures he drew in His parables. Let the Juniors understand that these pictures contain great spiritual truths. Teach them that "a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Then it will be easy to show the great spiritual truths of these two beautiful little

stories of the "hidden treasure" and "pearl of great price." To belong to the kingdom of heaven is so great a privilege that we should be willing to become Christ, and cost to ourselves. His grace in the soul is so glorious a treasure that we should be willing to give up all else to obtain it. A converted heathen girl was asked once what the "kingdom of God" meant, and she answered, "I think it means the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts," and when she was asked again what the prayer for the coming of God's Kingdom meant, she said "we are taught to pray that Christ may reign in every soul." Her ideas were right, and when our young people come to see that the blessings and privileges of membership in the kingdom of heaven on earth are so great and glorious they will seek first a place in the blessed Master's fold. Explain Henry Drummond's beautiful thought that "seeking first is first seeking."

TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 18TH.—Hab. 2: 5-8, 12, 15. "Some of the evils that come from the saloon."

The following extract from the *Witness* should be well impressed on the minds of your members this week. It is only one of many common illustrations of the terrible ravages of the saloon. If you can, also drill the Juniors on the Temperance lesson found in the Catechism printed in another column. "The *New Voice* recently sent the following question to the almshouse-keeper in each of the 284 counties of the United States: "In your opinion what proportion of your almshouse came there directly or indirectly through the use or abuse of intoxicating liquor, either on the part of themselves or some one else?" From the 816 replies received, it is shown that 51 per cent. of the inmates of that number of almshouses became paupers through drink. As the number of persons wholly or partially a public charge upon the nation is estimated to be 3,000,000, it follows, upon this basis, that there are to-day 1,530,000 persons dependent upon the State for the common necessities of life. As the *Voice* pertinently comments, there are many unpreventable causes of poverty and pauperism, but the most prolific cause—the saloon—is preventable. Common sense, therefore, calls for its abolition."

TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 25TH.—Luke 18: 9-14. "Why is it foolish to be proud?"

Pride is "unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority, whether as to talents, wealth, beauty, accomplishments, rank, office, or other distinction, with correspondingly contemptuous feeling towards others," and, as M. Hale in his celebrated "Contemplations of Humility" says, it "arise from an over-valuation of a man's self, or a want of a due sense of his dependency upon Almighty God." The study of the parable of the Pharisee and Publican will reveal in the former just what is outlined in the above definition, and his want of a due sense of his dependence on God, is very evident from the record that "he prayed with himself." The reverse is true of the publican. In the sight of God we all need "mercy," and the prayer of the publican going before Him with our hearts we cannot be His. The foolishness of pride is seen when we ask ourselves how God looks at us. Before Him we are all sinners needing pardon. He "is no respecter of persons." The foolishness of many people is in setting up false standards of value by which to judge one another. One may be rich or poor, in high or low station, wise or unlearned; but unless he is good he is unworthy before the Almighty. Be clear and make it clear to the children. Personal holiness through the abounding grace of God is the one great distinction to be desired, and without it all else that the natural heart covets is hurtful and full of destruction.