

Junior Department

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add interest to this Department of the Era.

The Junior League Is It Necessary? If So, Why?

II.

In our last issue we endeavored to show the necessity of the Junior League from the Nature of the Child. This section of our series of articles will try to show the necessity of the Junior League because of the Church's Needs.

THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH MAKE IT NECESSARY!

All will admit that the Church needs workers. It may be as well added that the Church needs devoted workers. But even devoted workers are not all. They must be intelligent also. The Church requires people who do, who do willingly, who do willingly and well. Such workers are not very numerous. Neither are they easily found. What then? The Church must make provision for a constant accession of such workers. Not only people who are good, but who are good for some thing, are needed. How are they to be obtained? Two ways are open. They are: 1. By conquest from without. 2. By culture from within. The former of these two plans is seen in the ordinary revival effort wherein persons are won to the Kingdom by conquest from the ranks of Satan. It has brought thousands into the working forces of the Church; but of these many have regretted that so large a proportion of their best years of service for God have been wasted before they were led to serve Him at all. The way proposed in the Junior League is not opposed to this work of revivals; but it aims to retain for the service of the Master even the youngest, and to so culture them for use that they will grow both more scholarly and skillful in all matters pertaining to practical Christianity as the years go by. The Junior League stands, therefore, for the training of workers, devoted workers, devoted intelligent workers. It plans to teach the young both the Why and How of Christian work. Too many in the Church know what is needed; but they either cannot or will not do it. To know what is required, to be willing to attempt it, to do it with intelligence as marked as the devotion shown, thus insuring a measure of success, is the object of the Junior League workers and members through out.

When such culture begins in the early life of the child, he may be so accustomed to work in and for the Church and its Head, that he will consider it, as it ought to be, a perfectly natural situation for him to occupy. Too many children have been undervalued by the Church, neglected by it, allowed to drift out of its associations, and after a few years special revival effort has been strenuously made to reclaim these youths who should never have been lost. The Junior League believes that the Church's duty is to keep, to educate, and to use all its children, and its constitution and plans of work are founded on this thought. The Sunday Schools, Catechumen Classes, Mission Bands, Bands of Hope, and kindred societies, at work among the young have all done excellent service; but none of them have so wide a scope nor so extensive a programme as the Junior League. In short, the Junior Epworth League is the only society in Methodism that is calculated to fill the place and do the work in all its phases. Others are partial. This gives abundant room for a complete curriculum of study and practical service. We trust we have made it clear that the Church must make provision for a continual accession of devoted and intelli-

gent workers. . . . It needs but to be seen that such trophies by no means less. And no trophies by way of conquest from without can repair this loss. A year of possible service for God, once lost is forever lost. The way of wisdom is that of prevention. For a child is early enlisted and trained for God, he is saved both soul and life. Not only the eternal salvation of the soul is demanded; but the salvation of the present life and its utilization for Christ. Lose a child and you lose years of possible service, to say nothing of his infulsible service, to say nothing of his influence for evil on others during his life of sin. We cannot afford to lose our children for their own sakes. We dare not let them be lost for the sake of their inheritance. The Church needs children also to brighten it and to keep its heart and spirit young. A home without children in it is a dull and cheerless place. A congregation without the children is the same. Dr. Dryadust is not yet dead in many of our churches. Fossilized churches and ministers would be impossible with plenty of children present in the services. Many ministers would be better appreciated in their pulpits as betrayers if they had learned the art of preaching so that the children could understand them. This would mean a more simple presentation of truth that is in full accord with the mind and method of Jesus Christ. The Church needs children to retain its own vitality and attractiveness. Hence we conclude that both for its own life and the successful execution of its mission the Church needs the children, and the Junior Epworth League properly understood and efficiently operated will go a long way to the supply of this double want. Do not forget it!

The needs of the Church make the Junior Epworth League a necessity!

(To be continued.)

Weekly Topics

Nov. 12—"A story of a loving daughter."
Ruth 1, 14-18; 2, 11, 12.

The story of Ruth is one with which our young people are somewhat familiar, yet it should be retold in the League meeting, so that even the youngest may know somewhat of its beautiful lessons. The story is dated in the "days when the judges ruled." There was a famine in the land. A man named Elimelech, with his wife and two sons left Bethlehem-judah and went to live in Moab, where they might obtain food. There Elimelech died. His sons, who both married there, also died, so that Naomi, widow of Elimelech, and her two daughters-in-law were left alone. Naomi, learning that there was food again in her own land, longed to return. She started to go, and her daughters-in-law went with her. But after they had travelled some distance, Naomi, thinking that she was taking the young women away from their own country and friends, to their own return, they did not want to leave her. Repeated advice on Naomi's part, however, induced Orpah, one of the young women, to return; but nothing could persuade Ruth to leave the older woman. So together they went on to Bethlehem, where the old friends of the deceased Elimelech welcomed his widow and her daughters-in-law, Ruth, among them. So the two widows, the older and the younger, dwelt together in Bethlehem. It was the time of barley harvest when they arrived in their home town. As the custom was, Ruth asked to be allowed to go into the fields and glean, for, though they were once rich, they were now poor. Naomi told her to go, and, as it happened, Ruth went into a field of Boaz, who was a relative of Elimelech, her father-in-law. This man Boaz was rich. Coming into the fields among the reapers he saw the strange woman, and enquired of the reaper. He gave instructions to his men to

use her well, so all through the barley and wheat harvests Ruth gathered among the sheaves until she had quite a large store. Eventually Boaz and Ruth were married and lived happily. They lived in Bethleem and became the parents of Obed, who was the father of Jesse, and he in turn was the father of David. So, from being a poor and obscure young woman, Ruth, by her fidelity, prudence, and diligence, became one of the great women of her day and an ancestress of the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . A splendid opportunity is presented in this lesson to teach the girls lessons of dutifulness at home. We suggest the following stanzas as a recitation at your meeting by one of your ablest boys:

GIRLS THAT ARE WANTED.

The girls that are wanted are good girls,
Good from the heart to the lips;
Pure as the lily is white and pure
From the heart to the sweet leaf-tips.
The girls that are wanted are home girls—
Girls that are mother's right hand,
That fathers and brothers can trust to,
And the little ones understand.

Girls that are fair on the hearth-stone,
And pleasant when nobody sees,
Kind and sweet to their own folks,
Ready and anxious to please.
The girls that are wanted are wise girls,
That know what to do and to say,
That drive with a smile and a soft word
The wrath of the household away.

The girls that are wanted are girls of sense,
Whom fashion can never deceive,
Who can follow whatever is pretty,
And dare what is silly to leave.
The girls that are wanted are careful girls,
Who count what a thing will cost,
Who win with a prudent and generous hand,
But see that nothing is lost.

The girls that are wanted are girls with hearts,
They are wanted for mothers and wives;
Wanted to cradle in loving arms
The strongest and frailest lives.
The clever, the witty, the brilliant girls
There are few who can understand;
But, Oh! for the wise, loving, home girls
There's a constant and steady demand.

Nov. 19—"Our Missionaries in Japan."
Isa. 52, 7.

This is the Monthly Missionary Study of the League. Japan is the oldest foreign mission field of the Canadian Methodist Church. It was started in 1873, when Drs. Cochran and Macdonald were sent out as leaders in the work. Japan was at this time just being opened up to commerce with the Western World. Only in six treaty ports and their neighborhoods, however, was any foreigner permitted to reside. Our first missionary stations in Japan were at Shizuoka and Tokyo. Dr. Cochran in Tokyo and Dr. Macdonald in Shizuoka had the work well in hand. In 1876 two new workers (Drs. Eby and Menzema) were sent out. The work grew so that after ten years there were nearly three hundred members and nine native missionaries sent out from Canada. In 1882 the W.M.S. commenced work in Japan. Miss Cartmell was the first missionary sent out by that society. Since then the field has been so well worked that now there is a separate Japan conference, and the W.M.S. has a large number of workers there. In all the Canadian Methodist Church has sent out over sixty men and women missionaries, and more are being sent every year. Some of the missionaries are being supported by the contributions of the Leagues. Every League should have a branch of the Forward Movement at work