

The Junior Epworth Era

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Winter Time

Oh, hear the wind blow!
Very soon we'll have snow,
And what will the boys do then?
They'll bring out their skates
And call to their mates,
"Jack Frost is with us again!"

"Yes, Jack has come back,
There's ice in his pack.
He's as busy as busy can be!
He freezes the creeks,
He pinches the cheeks,
And hangs little pearls on the trees."

"Oh, now we can slide,
On sleds see us glide;
Just look at the snowman so high,
We made him to-day;
For awhile he will stay;
He'll melt in the sun by and by."

Jack Frost loves the boys,
He laughs at their noise,
And peeps in their windows at night;
And then in a trice
Draws pictures in ice
That glisten and shine in the light.
—Kindergarten Review.

Weekly Topics

FEB. 9.—A TALK BY JACOB'S WELL.
John 4. 5-14.

Jesus was going from Judea to Galilee. Samaria was the province lying between the other two. He passed through it. He reached Sychar, where Jacob's well was. It was noon. The road had been rough and dusty. He was tired with the journey. His disciples had gone into the town to buy something to eat. Jesus was resting on the side of the well. He was thirsty, but had nothing with which to draw water. The woman came with her pitcher. He asked her for a drink. She was surprised. She hesitated. Christ told her of "living water," of which she knew but little. From talk about physical thirst Jesus led her up to thinking and talking of spiritual. She could supply his thirst of body. Only He could supply her thirst of soul. So the woman was convinced that He was the Messiah. The story told simply as above will lead up to spiritual truth. Our chief need is not physical. We need water, and God has given us the springs in the earth. But we need "living water." He has given us this also: Christ is Life. What then? As when thirsty we take the water and drink, so we must quench our inward spiritual thirst by coming unto Him and drinking as He provides from the Fountain of Truth. This is Life. We cannot be spiritually alive without Christ. He can only satisfy our immortal natures. And He does, if we ask Him. Therefore, ask of Him, and He will give thee living water, is the culminating point in the whole study.

FEB. 16.—A TEMPERANCE PLEDGE SERVICE. Jer. 35-6, Prov. 23. 19-21.

In every way the resolution of the first text was a good one. It is just as wise to-day as then. Many reasons might be given. The passage from Prov. tells us that "poverty" and "rags" are sure to come to "the drunkard and the glutton."

Everybody knows that strong drink brings misery of every kind. Physically the drinker is harmed by the drink. Mentally he is weakened. Socially his reputation is destroyed. Morally he falls. Indeed, in every sense he is robbed of what is of greatest value. And what about his family? Their "poverty" and "rags" have been in evidence too often. Pity the drunkard's children! Their home is one only in name. Drink destroys everything that makes a true home. But no man intends to be a drunkard when he starts to drink. Little by little the habit grows, until he is a slave to the liquor. He would have laughed if someone had told him at the first that he would end up in "poverty" and "rags." But when it is too late he finds himself bound to the chains of the deadly slavery. That is why our Juniors should abstain. Never touch the evil thing. The only safety is in keeping away from it from the very start and for ever. (If you have not a Total Abstinence Pledge in your League, form one, and invite all your members to sign it. You cannot make too much of it.)

FEB. 23.—DEPUTATION TO MOUNT ELGIN INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, MUNCEY.

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

Hymn 172.

Prayer.—That those who are engaged in work among the Indians may be enabled to lead them into the knowledge of the Gospel.

Scripture Lesson—Matt. 25. 34-40.

Hymn 185.

Address by Supt.—Our Indian Fellow-Citizens.

Hymn 323.

Report from Deputation—Reporters 1 and 2.

Hymn 296.

Report from Deputation—Reporters 3, 4 and 5.

Benediction.

References—"The Methodist Church and Missions in Canada and Newfoundland," Chapter 11; "Indian Education in the Northwest," 5c; Onward and Pleasant Hours for February 8th; Missionary Report; Epworth Era, February.

Use school geography, and locate Muncy, 12 miles from St. Thomas, on the map of Ontario.

MARCH 1.—THE STORY OF THE NOBLEMAN'S SON. John 4. 46-53. (Consecration Meeting.)

Jesus was always interested in the young. Many kind words He spoke to them, and often He did great things for them. We may be sure that the serious sickness of this boy appealed to Him. But He wanted to reach the father as well as bless and help the son. And He did so. The faith of the father in the word of Jesus was very striking. He rested fully on just what Jesus said to him. And so both he and his son were blest. It is our privilege to ask Jesus for help, and it is our duty to believe what He tells us. So we have two lessons to-day. The first shows us that Jesus is always ready to hear and help the needy. The second is that we should fully trust His word. (This is Consecration Service. Make the pledge prominent. Apply the practical side of the study by showing how we may do what Jesus would have us do in relieving suffering wherever and whenever we have opportunity. The nobleman's faith should make the first clause of the pledge practical.)

About Your Habits

A habit is something which we have made our custom by doing it over and over again. It is true, whether it be of our thinking, speaking, or doing. Every body forms habits. They cannot help it. But we can choose our habits. Never forget that. You do not have to think, speak or act in any set way. You prefer one way to another, and by going that way it becomes yours. It is a habit then. So you see, the first thing we should think of is whether a certain way is good or bad. For both kinds of habits are formed by just the same way. The same thing done over and over becomes easy, and we get into the way of doing it without thinking about it every time. That is the one great reason why we should not allow ourselves to get into the way of thinking, speaking, or acting that is not the very best. The little things that come in our way every day are the ones we need to watch. A boy or girl may get into the habit of slang speech almost before it is noticed. The same is true almost of everything. That is why we should always be careful at the start. If you start life with a bad habit it will not become easy to break it as you grow older. Bad habits are like the letters a boy cuts in the bark of a tree. The older the tree grows, the wider the letters become in the bark. And good habits are

just as enduring. The way we live in childhood and youth will very largely decide what we shall be when we are grown men and women. Never say of a habit, "It is too small to notice." The wise Cato once reproved a boy for what the boy thought a slight offence. "You find fault with me for a very little thing," he said. The wise teacher replied, "Habit is never a little thing." You all know the old adage, "As the twig is bent the tree is inclined." It is true of us all. Be careful, then, of your habits. We cannot draw up a list of all good or bad habits, but there are some that every one of you should form, and others that you should equally shun. Habits of clean thinking, pure speaking, kind acting, habits of promptness, punctuality, obedience, order, sincerity, truth, are all and "always good; but such as untidiness, sloth, carelessness, thoughtlessness, should always be avoided, not only for our own sakes, but for the good of those around us. For habits are catching. Little brothers will try to do what they see their big brothers doing. Little sisters want to be like the big ones. So, our habits affect not only ourselves, but those about us, and make them, as well as ourselves, better or worse, as they are good or bad. Therefore, be careful and watch.