

The Junior Epworth Era

Edited by Rev. S. T. Bartlett, Associate General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues

The Sleepy Song

As soon as the fire burns red and low,
And the house upstairs is still,
She sings me a queer little sleepy song,
Of sleep that go over the hill.

The good little sheep run quick and soft,
Their colors are gray and white;
They follow their leader nose to tail,
For they must be home by night.

And one slips over and one comes next,
And one runs after behind,
The gray one's nose at the white one's
tail,
The top of the hill they find.

And when they get to the top of the hill
They quietly slip away,
But one runs over and one comes next—
Their colors are white and gray.

And over they go, and over they go,
And over the top of the hill,
The good little sheep run thick and fast,
And the house upstairs is still.

And one slips over and one comes next,
The good little, gray little sheep!
I watched how the fire burns red and low,
And she says as I fall asleep.

New Testament Studies

II.

13. What books did St. Luke write? Luke and Acts.
 14. What are the first four New Testament books called? Gospels.
 15. How many Epistles are there in the New Testament? Twenty-one.
 16. How are they divided? Paul's Epistles and the seven General Epistles.
 17. How many Epistles did Paul write to persons? Four.
 18. Name them. I. and II. Timothy, Titus and Philemon.
 19. How many Epistles did Paul write to churches? Ten.
 20. Name them. Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Hebrews.
 21. Who wrote the General Epistles? Peter, James, John and Jude.
 22. How many did each write? James and Jude wrote one each, Peter wrote two, and John three.
 23. What is the nature of the last book of the New Testament? It is a book of prophecy—Revelation.
 24. Who wrote it? St. John the Divine.
- The purpose of these studies given in this form of question and answer is to enable the League Superintendent to inform the Juniors, even the youngest, on the plain facts concerning the New Testament Books and Authors. If a few (say three) questions are learned each week, in the course of a short time the Juniors will have a good working knowledge of the Bible. Follow the questions by number, go slowly, review frequently, and the course will be easy and well learned.

Weekly Topics

Jan. 20.—"Haman the Proud." (Pride.)
Esther 5. 9-14.

In the 3rd chapter of Esther we have the story of Haman's advancement and Mordecai's refusal to prostrate himself before him. In chapter 3, 5 we see the rage of Haman in consequence, and as our last week's topic told us, his revenge on all the Jews followed. His cruel edict against the Jews failed, as we have already learned. To-day's study will show how his murderous purpose towards Mordecai also failed, and how the gallows he had had set up on which to hang the Jew became his own death-trap. The lesson text this week shows with great plainness the workings of jealousy, envy and hate. Verses 11, 12 give an idea of the great wealth and power of Haman; but in verse 13 we are shown how his spite and wicked malice towards Mordecai spoiled his enjoyment of his high position. "Jealousy is cruel as the grave." How cruel was the counsel given to him by wife and friends! (See verse 14.) Poor Mordecai! What a terrible doom is awaiting him. But we shall see in course of our study how God delivered him. To-day's lesson concerns Haman's pride and its consequences. Let the Juniors see the workings of a spirit of self-glorification. There Haman's trouble began. He was advanced, therefore all others must be abased. He was exalted in the King's favor, therefore everybody must be humbled before him. S-E-I-F is the commencement of the tragedy. And it is generally so where selfishness prevails in man or boy it tends to a careless disregard of the rights of others. It is manifest early in the lives of many children. A boy wants a toy. He must have it no matter who else gives way for his gratification. The spirit of greed possesses the youth. He must obtain his object no matter whose rights are to be sacrificed in the process. An overwhelming spirit of self-gratification possesses the girl or young woman. She must have what she covets no matter what the cost to others. There lies the secret of it all. Hence the absolute necessity of early learning the royal law of love in self-sacrifice. . . . Pride is the fruit of selfishness. It is fed by unholiness in the heart, and shows itself in a gradual but sure manifestation of a spirit of cruel despotism. It says to all, "Stand aside for M-E." Whatever will not minister to its gratification must be sacrificed and destroyed. So Haman would murder Mordecai. He was in the cruel despot's way and he must be put out of it. So, murder is in the air, on the programme, and what Haman felt and intended for Mordecai has since the natural result in thousands of cases since then. The lesson is full of warning to today. Boys and girls must not be greedy, envious, jealous. They will have a murderer's heart if they are. They must learn to be considerate, kind, forbearing, forgiving to all. They will have a Christian's heart if they do. All feelings of unkindness, selfishness, pride or hate should be nipped in the bud, for the fruit is very bitter and deadly to all. (Rom. 12. 3 and Prov. 29. 23 are good texts to close your study.)

Jan. 27.—"Junior Missionary Meeting." Subject—"Preparation for the Missionary Trip. The Missionaries, the Travellers, the Conductors, the Guides, and the News-agents."

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.
(Canadian Hymnal Used.)

Hymn No. 449.

The Lord's Prayer (repeated by all).

Hymn No. 263.

Scripture Lesson—Read or repeat together
John 3. 14-17.

Map Talk on the places which will be visited during the trip around the world.

Appointment of News-agents, the Conductors, and Guides for the next meeting—the trip through Canada.

Distribution of the tickets, by the Conductors, for February meeting.
Hymn No. 192.

Mizpah Benediction—"The Lord watch between thee and me while we are absent one from the other."

We invite all who are interested in Junior Epworth Leagues to write and obtain help for the missionary meetings.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

The object of this imaginary missionary trip is to give the Juniors information about the conditions of child life in the several countries visited, to tell them what is being done by missionaries for the children of these lands, and to arouse a desire for further study.

To ensure success, careful preparation for each meeting is necessary. The trip, if properly managed, will sustain the interest in the Junior missionary meetings and provide a course of study for the Juniors.

MAP TALK.

The first item on the programme, after the devotional exercises, is a Map Talk to be given by the superintendent, who will point out places which are to be visited during the year. The object of this is to give the children an idea of the whole trip, an outline of which will be found on the Junior Epworth League Topic Cards for 1907, or, in the Epworth Era for December, page 333. As the countries are pointed out on the map, the names of a missionary of each country should be mentioned. Ask the Juniors to mention the names of any missionaries they may know. For example, among the Indians of Canada, the Rev. Thos. Crosby, or the Rev. Geo. McDougall; Japan, Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Cochrane might be mentioned; in China, Robert Livingstone, the first missionary, and Dr. Hart, the founder of our own mission in the Szechuan Province; in India, Wm. Carey, the cobler, whom we call the founder of Protestant missions. The Islands of the Sea suggest the names of John G. Paton and Jas. Chalmers, David Livingstone, MacKay, of Uganda, and Samuel Crowther, the slave boy who became Bishop of the Niger, are well known names as missionaries in Africa. From Africa, after a long sea voyage, Newfoundland is reached, where we have the only Methodist orphanage in British North America. The work in Newfoundland was begun by Robt. Coughlan, see "Methodist Church and Missions in Canada and Newfoundland."