



Our Juniors

HAMMOCKS for girls and dollies, waggons for sturdy boys! Well, here they are. Away out in Calgary I saw Jean giving her favorite doll a ride, and over in Waterford the parsonage boys were enjoying their wagon. Mr. and Mrs. Westman delight in their only daughter, and you may be sure that Mr. and Mrs. Truax take pride in their splendid sons. And well they may. Good boys and girls are always a joy to their parents. So we want all our Juniors to grow strong, to keep sweet, and to help make home happy, wherever they may live.



Junior Topics

APRIL 27.—OUR OWN MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN AND THEIR WORK FOR GIRLS AND BOYS. Matt. 5; John 15: 1-12.

We wonder how many of our missionaries in Japan we really and truly know! We have been delighted to hear some of them speak to us in our churches. They write such beautiful letters to us in Canada, that we often feel that Japan is not very far away after all, for we hear from them so often. In the *Missionary Bulletin* we have just been reading (December, 1912-March, 1913) we find some very interesting things. Write to Dr. Stephenson for a copy. "In the year 1907 the late Rev. R. Emberson, who was then stationed in Shizuoka, started the 'Shizuoka Home,' for the purpose of caring for poor children whose fathers had been killed in the Russo-Japanese war. Fifteen poor children were taken in, many of them half starved, and the people of Japan in the grip of a great war unable to care for them. At the close of the war the nation was burdened with a big debt and all were heavily taxed. So, although the 'Shizuoka Home' had been established for the above-named special purpose, during the war, the close of the war did not relieve the situation, and it was found that not only were the children of soldiers in a pitiful condition, but also the children of many more poor people. Consequently other homeless orphans were taken in, and the orphanage grew in numbers." Now we want you to know the story of this orphanage, and of some of the things the boys and girls do. You can get all the information from the *Bulletin*, and other literature which Dr. Stephenson has. From his office you may obtain some very fine tea, done up in pretty, half-pound packages, picked by the Shizuoka orphans into baskets on the plantation of the Home. Try some of it. By buying it for 25 cents a package you will help carry on the great work which is being done among the boys and girls in Japan. You can obtain six picture post cards of the Orphanage free. The story of the Canadian Methodist Orphanage, Kanazawa, is also one of interest. In the space allotted to us it would be impossible to tell you all we would want to, so we ask you to get the literature and read for yourself. (See *Missionary Bulletin*, March-June, 1912.)

MAY 4.—TWO PORTRAITS—MARTHA AND MARY. Luke 10: 38-42.

We put these two portraits together because we believe their lives are entwined round each other, being sisters, and are, therefore, connected by natural and spiritual ties. The beauty of the story of these two women never seems to die from the memory. These sisters lived in a rural home not far from Jerusalem (John 11: 18). It was in a small village called Bethany, situated on the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and was beautiful for its scenery. This home seems to have been a kind of retreat for Jesus, where He could have quiet and rest for a time from the labors of His public ministry. For like us He needed home-love and rest to fit Him for the work He was called to do. We believe Martha was the housekeeper, and a Christian who dearly loved the Saviour, for it required no small amount of attachment at this time for His followers to dare to take Him into their homes. Amidst all the malice and hatred of the day we find Martha with open heart, open hand and open door to receive Jesus at whatever cost. (John 11: 15). In honor of her Guest she prepared a feast. Full of hospitality, energy, hurry, bustle, and excitement she brought all her faculties into exercise. In many ways she was a pattern for us to follow. What did she forget? Contrast the attitude of Mary. Tell how she showed her love for Jesus. Martha was a godly woman, ardent, resolute, and active in domestic duties. Mary was humble and affectionate. Reference may be made to their brother, and their loss. Let us remember (1) cares of life may become dangers; (2) we fail without prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit; (3) we have household tasks to perform, but we must not neglect religious duties; (4) nothing should take the place of Jesus.

MAY 11.—LYDIA'S LOVE AND WORK. Acts 1: 14.

There is some reason for believing that Lydia stands connected with the first preaching of the Gospel in Europe. It is interesting to read of her first appearance in Acts 16. Paul in a vision was commanded to go into Macedonia and preach to the idolatrous people there. At once he and Silas set out for that country. They left Troas and went by Samothrace, a straight course, and soon reached Philippi, the capital of Macedonia, where they preached of Jesus. (Use the wall map, tracing the journey.)

They had not been long in the city when a persecution led by bigoted men stopped their labors for a time. They were cast into prison. (Tell the story of the opening of the prison doors.) The first convert of the story of Calvary was Lydia. She was a native of Thyatira, a city of Lycaonia, Asia Minor, now called Ak-hisar. Perhaps she was called Lydia because this was the name of her native country. The city from which she came was noted for the art of dyeing. Maybe on account of business this woman had come to live in Philippi. She had been taught to worship idols in her old home land, and in Philippi she continued pagan worship. While she with others one Sabbath were worshipping in their heathen way by a river-side, God sent Paul and Silas there to preach. Paul's message went right to Lydia's heart. She opened her heart's door and let Jesus in. "She let her light shine," for she began to tell the story of Jesus' love first at home, and she and all her household were baptized. Her whole life and work with all their interests, were given to Jesus. Having received great blessings she desired to show her gratitude, and invited the apostles to come into her home and partake of the things necessary for temporal comfort and happiness. That home became a temple for the preaching of the Word. Afterwards when Paul was in prison at Rome, did he forget the converts at Philippi? What did he write? Like Lydia we must let Christ guide eye, ear, tongue, affections and desires, and Lydia's work has gone far beyond Philippi—beyond Europe. Many girls have followed in her footsteps. How many more will follow and like her become a true missionary?

A Recipe

Take a dash of water cold,
And a little lesson of prayer,
A little bit of sunshine gold,
Dissolved in the morning air;
Add to your meal some merriment,
And a thought for kith and kin,
And then as a prime ingredient,
A plenty of work thrown in;
But spice all with the essence of love
And a little whiff of play,
Let a wise old book and a glance above,
Complete a well spent day.
—Selected.

Being upbraided by her mother for being the lowest in her class, little Mabel exclaimed in tones of injured innocence: "It ain't my fault. The girl who has always been foot left school."