

Junior Department.

All communications for this Department should be directed to REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Box 216, Napanee, Ontario. He invites the co-operation of all Junior workers in making these pages both bright and profitable.

Weekly Topics.

NOTE.—In the past our Topics have been uniform with the Christian Endeavor list. This year we follow the subjects decided on by the Epworth Leagues. We hope the change will be satisfactory to our Juniors. The topic list is a very fine one, and month by month, if studied, will bring before the Leagues the most important truths of God's Word as imparted by precept and example. The monthly subjects for study are as follows: January, "Decision"; succeeding months in order treat of "Growth," "Strength," "Some New Testament Boys and Girls," "Men who have Accomplished Something," "The Beautiful World," "Lessons from Nature," "The Junior Vacation," "Every-day Living," "How the Juniors may help in the Church," "Special Lessons," and "Thoughts for Winter." One can readily see the scope and purpose of these monthly subjects. Each month's topic is, of course, subdivided into weekly topics, and these form the basis of the study for the Junior meeting. We sincerely hope that every League will accept and follow these weekly topics for the whole year can be obtained from the Book Room, and a copy should be placed in the hands of every member of the Junior Leagues. Send your order to Dr. Briggs, and ask enough to supply every boy and girl in your society with one. Mr. Bartlett will be pleased to hear from superintendents, presidents, secretaries, or any League workers in reference to these topics, or, indeed, on any other phase of Junior League work. Start right in with January, for it will be a loss to your society if you wait till late winter or early spring before you get down to regular and systematic study.

JANUARY TOPIC, "DECISION."

We all know the importance of having our minds "made up." It never pays to be unsettled. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" was the question of the prophet long ago. Have clear and decided views, and "be sure you're right, then go ahead." No girl or boy can do well without being decided. Decision is a quality we may all cultivate, and if we do not, we will always be "putting off" what we ought to be doing now. This habit of "putting off till to-morrow" would ought to be doing now brought a great deal of sorrow to our world. "Now is the accepted time." This is true of all our duties, our studies, our kind acts, our worship and service to God, and we cannot afford to postpone or procrastinate. To-morrow is always a day ahead, and we may never catch it. So swiftly do the moments fly! You remember of the fabled Mercury, the god with the winged heels. The ancients represented the gods as having these wings in his heels to teach them how swiftly opportunity flew past. It seems only a very short time since we felt it strange to write 1901, and yet 365 whole days have quickly sped by. We cannot catch the flying minutes if we let them slip from us, so let us be decided, and do to-day whatever ought to be done today. The will is supreme. It has wonderful power.

Like that great driving-wheel you see in the power-houses of great mills, it turns all the rest and makes everything go, or if it is still, all is quiet and nothing moves. So it is in being good. We may if we will. "I would like to be good" is not true unless we are doing our best to be good. If we would really like to be Christians, we will show it by doing what Christians should. Every successful person must have a strong will. Not stubborn, but firm to refuse all wrong and to do all right. We may be Christ's disciples now, and every day as it comes will find us in the same decided state of mind. Do you say, "I haven't my mind made up yet to be a Christian"? Dear young friend, now is the time God calls you, and He never calls unless he wants you. Be decided! And never change your mind.

January 5th: "How to be right with God."—1 John 1. 9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The weeks that follow during January bring before us three questions. (See.) But without the one of this week. To get right with God is the first necessary thing for all. Notice in the text for the week's study the little word "sins." This gives us the secret of being wrong instead of right with God. Before sin came, our first parents were right with God, but as soon as they sinned they were wrong. "Our sins," the text says. Did you ever stop to think that sin is the one thing that you can truly call your own, your very own? They are ours because we are, therefore, responsible for them. We think them out first, then carry them out afterwards. Sinful thoughts precede sinful acts. So we should pray, " . . . the thoughts of my heart be acceptable in thy sight." What are we going to do with these "our sins"? We cannot get rid of them on some other person, although some people would like to do so. Being our own we must do something with them. The text says, "Tell God about them, say you are sorry for them, ask him to help you are sorry for them, may never do them again, turn away from them for ever, and be decided that with his help, you will never do them any more that is confessing our sins. Not just to say, "I am sorry," and then repeat the offence; but having your mind made up resolutely that you will "abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good." Then the text says God will forgive us, for what we have done wrong against him. God is our Father, and will do as he has said. He is "rich in mercy and full of grace," that is, he never breaks his promises, and if we will come to him, he will forgive the past and make us clean for the future. The love of sin must be taken out of our hearts. Only God can do this. And when he puts his love in us, love of evil dies out. So, and only so, can we be "right with God." Summary: Two persons referred to, "We" and "God."

1. "We." (a) Sinful. (b) Confessing. (c) Forgiving. (d) Cleansed. 2. "He." God! (a) Offended. (b) Merciful. (c) Forgiving. (d) Omnipotent.

We must not forget the fact of the seventh verse, "Jesus Christ, his Son." We cannot come to God but by his Son. Our penitence, confession, forgiveness, cleansing, preservation, are all by and through him. We get right with God through Jesus Christ. (John 14. 6.) Let every superintendant make this very plain

to the Juniors. Perhaps the following five steps, written in order on the black-board and explained in turn, will make it clear to the smallest of the Juniors:

1. Return to God.
2. Intreat His forgiveness.
3. Give Him your heart.
4. Hate all sin.
5. Turn away from it forever.

Living so, we will keep right with God.

January 12th.—How to do right.—Proverbs 3. 6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We can see now why the topic of last week rightly went before this one. God must be put first. If we will remember that our last thought in the topic of January 5th was to turn away from sin for ever, we shall be able to take up this subject easily. There are two things involved in doing right. 1st. We must hate wrong. 2nd. We must love right. We do not want to be just good enough to do evil; but so good that we do right. "Cease to do evil" is one part. Learn to do well" is the rest. There are plenty of people who tell us that they don't do wrong, but they cannot tell us that they do do right. See? God wants us to be very active for him. He has no place for mere ornaments in his kingdom. Useful Christians are what the world needs most, and there is plenty of room for them in the work of the church. So, having got right with God, as we saw last week, we are to keep right with him by doing his will. "Acknowledge him," means own him, speak up for him, obey him. "In all thy ways" means that there is nothing in life beneath his notice, or in which we do not need his assistance, or that we cannot do for his glory. This shows us that a boy on the play-ground, a girl at her desk, may be as truly a child of God as a teacher in the Sunday-school class, or a minister in the pulpit. Doing right includes everything, and nearly everything by itself is a little thing. The many little things go to make up the big things, and if we are not "faithful in that which is least," we will not likely be so in that "which is most." Do you want to be known as a Christian on the school play-ground as much as in the League meeting? Do you want to "acknowledge" God as much when you are studying your daily lessons for school as when you are going to church? Do right everywhere. That is our part. God is shown in the rest of the verse. "He shall direct thy paths." The way shall be pointed out, the needed correction and help shall be given, and life shall not be a failure. So you see there are no good reasons why we should fail. If we will, he will show us how, and will help us. Summary: Two persons referred to: 1. "Thy" means all who want to do right. (a) Own God. (b) In everything. (c) Everywhere. 2. "He," that is, God. (a) Will own you. (b) Will direct you. (c) Will make life's "paths" safe.

Questions Illustrating the Topic:

1. How did Abraham acknowledge God?
2. How did God direct Noah in return for acknowledging him?
3. What advice did David give Solomon about this matter?
4. How did Nebuchadnezzar suffer for refusing to acknowledge God?
5. What great good came to Daniel because he owned God in youth and was faithful to him in all his ways?
6. Quote some promise, other than the text for the week, in which much blessing is held out to those who take God to be their God for all time to come.