

## Junior Department

Conducted by REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Colborne, Ont., Vice-President in charge of the Junior League section of General Sunday-School and Epworth League Board. He invites correspondence from all Junior League workers to add interest to this Department of the Era.

### The Union Jack

It's only a small piece of bunting,  
It's only an old colored rag;  
Yet thousands have died for its honor,  
And shed their best blood for the flag.

It's charged with the cross of St. Andrew,  
Which, of old, Scotland's heroes had led;  
It carries the cross of St. Patrick,  
For which Ireland's bravest have bled.

Joined with these is our old English  
ensign,  
St. George's red cross on white field;  
Round which from King Richard to Wol-  
seley,  
Britons conquer or die, but ne'er yield.

It flutters triumphant o'er ocean,  
As free as the wind and the waves;  
And bondsmen from shackles unloosed,  
'Neath its shadows no longer are slaves.

It floats over Cyprus and Malta,  
O'er Canada, the Indies, Hong Kong,  
And Britons, wherever their flag's flying,  
Claim the rights which to Britons be-  
long.

We hoist it to show our devotion,  
To our Queen, to our country and laws;  
It's the outward and visible emblem  
Of advancement and liberty's cause.

You may say it's an old bit of bunting;  
You may call it an old colored rag;  
But freedom has made it majestic,  
And time has ennobled the flag.

—Anon.

### Oakville Junior League

Miss Sumner, superintendent of Oakville Junior League, reports a very successful season in the work of the League. What the League is doing for the Juniors of Oakville is told in the short, crisp statements given by some of the Oakville members at the regular meeting of February 5th, when the question of the topic, "What I Owe to the Junior League" was answered. Here are a few of them: "It has taught me to love and serve the Lord." "It has helped me read my Bible." "It has shown me how to live nearer to God." "It has made my life a pleasure." "It has given me a better knowledge of God's Word." "When I was sick, they came and saw me and that did me good." "The Junior League has done more for me than I can tell, so I shall have to do better every day and help to make the Junior League prosperous." "The Junior League has helped me to be good." Surely with such bright testimonials as these, and they might be repeated all over Canada, our League is worth a place in the active working forces of the Church. Miss Sumner makes a plea for "more sympathy" towards the Junior League workers that is much to the point, for many pastors and teachers have not yet appreciated the good that is possible in this agency among the children. Give it a chance. Put yourself in its way, not to hinder, but to help. "Feed my lambs." We shall be pleased to receive short accounts of the work from anyone at any time. We are in receipt occasionally of requests for helps in the formation of Junior Leagues. Copies of the Constitution, pledge cards, topic cards, the Junior League Hand-book, and all

supplies, are to be obtained of the Book Room. Send to Dr. Briggs for such, not to Mr. Bartlett.

### Weekly Topics

#### HOME MISSIONARY MEETING.

Mon., April 10.—The poor and the stranger. Lev. 19. 9, 10.  
Tues., April 11.—Love thy neighbor. Lev. 19. 18.  
Wed., April 12.—Oppress not the stranger. Ex. 23. 9.  
Thur., April 13.—Love the stranger. Deut. 10. 17-19.  
Fri., April 14.—"If thy brother be poor." Lev. 25. 35, 36.  
Sat., April 15.—"Teach the strangers." Josh. 8. 34, 35.  
Sun., April 16.—Topic: The strangers in our land. Lev. 19. 33, 34.

We can hardly take up a daily newspaper, and here we are told of many new arrivals into Canada. Most of these people come from the Old World and are going into the New Great West to settle. A visitor in Winnipeg, the "Gate of the West," will be very much impressed with the strange looking people he meets. They are of many nationalities. At the "All Peoples' Mission" in Winnipeg it is a common thing for people of a dozen different languages to be gathered together at the one service. Many of these people are ignorant of the Word of Life, and if allowed to settle in our country without being reached with the Gospel, will be a curse rather than a blessing in a few years. Hence, the duty of the Church is clear. They must be looked after right from the start. As soon as they arrive among us, and before they settle, they must be made to feel that this is a Christian country, and that as good citizens of Canada it is required of them that they honor our God and His word. They are "strangers" in more ways than one. Not only have they come from a foreign land, but their habits are not always what we want to have practised or taught in this land. So they need to be taught of Christ and His kingdom. Who is to do this but the missionaries? They are surely needed in the new settlements of the West as much as in any foreign land, for if these people be neglected they will make this land like their own, and another generation will be born to be a damage instead of a help to our country. Already our Missionary Society has special missionaries among these "strangers." More are needed. They will likely come by thousands in the next few years, and the work must be undertaken speedily. The command of God says so. The need of protecting our land from the customs that are unchristian says so, and we must not lose interest in these people in the glamor of the work in far distant lands. (Let the superintendent take the General Missionary Report for the past year and from its condensed reports of missions in the North-West arrange a programme of information for the League. Or, if you have a copy of the Missionary Bulletin you will find such letters as Dr. Lawford among the Galicians, useful detailed items call for more room than we have at our disposal here. Show the distinction between the different classes of the missionary work, e.g., Foreign, Indian, French, Chinese on Pacific Coast, etc., and give the Juniors some intelligent idea of the scope of operations. Thus you will enlist their sympathy and support for the cause in years to come, when they will perhaps have more extensive means with which to support the work. But strive for the Forward Movement Band in your League now. If you cannot get all you would wish, get all you can, and keep going ahead.)

### HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

(Easter Meeting.)

Mon., April 17.—Feasts of the Lord. Lev. 23. 1-4.  
Tues., April 18.—The Sabbath of Rest. Ex. 31. 15.  
Wed., April 19.—The Passover. Ex. 12. 1-14.  
Thur., April 20.—The Day of Atonement. Lev. 23. 26-28.  
Fri., April 21.—The Feast of Tabernacles. Lev. 23. 33-44.  
Sat., April 22.—The Day of Pentecost. Acts 2. 1-5.  
Sun., April 23.—Topic: Holy Days and Holidays.—Lev. 23. 1-6, 39-44; John 7. 8-14.

To the average boy or girl attending school, and indeed, to many older persons of the holiday thought of Easter is that of a school or college will be at home "for Easter." And in some cases it is doubtless true that the Sunday morning Easter eggs are of greater moment than the Sunday morning Easter sermon. Let it be our aim to emphasize the true meaning of Easter. It is above all the great Christian Festival. On its teaching the whole Christian system is based. Its central truth is resurrection. The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, followed by His resurrection from the grave, were the greatest themes of the apostles in their preaching. Everything was based on these two vital facts. They are essential ever be the most prominent doctrines in the Christian Church. Easter is essentially a holy day, and must not be let degenerate into a common holiday. Its season is one of richest joy, and this joy must not be supplanted with mere fun. To truly celebrate Easter we need both knowledge and faith, a faith that is well grounded on an intelligent knowledge of the truths of the Scriptures concerning the mission of Christ to earth. Review the great facts of the Passion Week. Recall the supper, instituted to supersede the Passover, visit Gethsemane, Calvary the sepulchre. Read the story of the first Easter morning, with its glad message, "the Lord is risen indeed." Memorize the five different appearances of Christ to His disciples on that day, viz., to Mary, to the other women, to Peter, to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, and to the apostles when gathered together at night. Show the children that the resurrection of Christ is one of the best established facts in history, and that of the most gladsome truths for a happy human experience. So shall Easter be well kept, a holy day unto God in praise for His Son. Not only is Easter a glad-some festival because of the resurrection of the Lord; but it is a reminder of our own future. Without the facts of Easter we should be without hope. Have Paul's glorious argument, 1 Cor. 15, read in your meeting. We are assured of our own immortality by His triumph over death and the grave. Teach the children not to dread death, but to rejoice in their possible triumph over it by the power of Christ. Easter is not only a celebration of what has been; but it is a prophecy of what is to be. We shall live in Him forever if we are true to His Word here, and when our mortal bodies are laid away in the grave all our friends say we are dead, we shall live forever in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Christ  
thus  
Risen  
In  
Strength  
Triumphant.