

Junior Topics

OCTOBER 18.—THANKSGIVING SERVICE. Psalm 103.

Instead of trying to make inventory of the numerous reasons we have for Thanksgiving, let the leader after the Psalm is read call particular attention to the main theme that runs through it. This may well be termed God's Mercy. For that above all things we should give thanks. Certain characteristics of the Divine Mercy are clearly stated in the Psalm. The following are but suggestive thoughts around which, with others that will logically grow out of them, the leader will find it easy to impart many valuable truths and press home to young minds various important life lessons.

Notice v. 4. It speaks of God's Mercy as being "tender," and says that His tender mercies crowd our lives. How beautiful that thought. His nature is fatherly. His mercies are a father's tender thought and care for his children. See v. 13.

"Mercies" is plural. Who can number the many and daily gifts of the Heavenly Father? They are so varied, so constant, so timely, so precious, that none of us can even think of living apart from the Divine provision. Show how Canada as a nation, as well as our individual persons, should give thanks to God. The abundance of harvest, the innumerable physical blessings, our social and religious advantages, . . . all these and more call for praise to God. What we have is of His unfailing mercy towards us. See verse 11. It tells us how vast God's mercy is. The heaven is so high above the earth that no person can measure it. The universe is boundless. There is no limit set to God's wonderful mercy save as we set it by our relations to Him. He does not restrict or confine it. The only boundary set to it is that which sinful hearts set themselves. Verse 11 speaks about "them that fear Him." Explain that "fear" does not mean terror or dread, but rather reverence, obedience, love. We need not be afraid of God if we are trying to be His children and do His will in our lives. His mercy is "great" towards us, then, and He always wills to do us good.

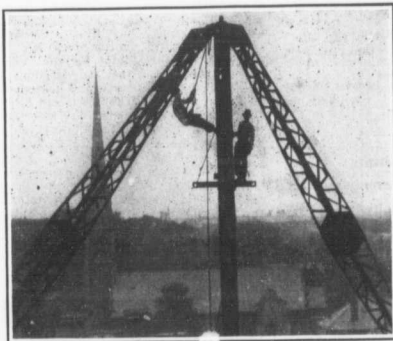
Verse 17 impresses this again and tells us that God's Mercy is not fickle or fleeting but that it endures forever. He is not one day kind and the next day cruel. His nature is always the same. He is Father. He is Sufferer as these are the Juniors will intelligently comprehend and appreciate, and if the Leader will take a little time to arrange a few references to other similar passages there will be a wealth of Scripture texts and incidents to illuminate the thoughts presented.

What is our duty in the face of this Psalm? To be thankful! Yes, but what is thankfulness? Show that it is more than merely saying "Thank you." We may say the words but not feel the true motive. If we would really give thanks to God we must *think*. Think and thank are not so far apart. If we think we shall soon thank. That means that we will not take God's daily mercies just as a matter of course and as if they were our right. We will think of what they mean of our Father's loving care and because we appreciate His spirit of love we will value highly His daily gifts. One of our greatest dangers is in thoughtlessness. . . . The true thanks of a grateful heart find expression in deeds as well as in words. Make this clear. We take

our Father's gifts, not to enjoy them all to ourselves, but to share them as far as we can with others. This is especially true of our Church duties. We have many privileges beside our "daily bread" with which our bodies are fed. To give food to the hungry is good, but bread is not God's best gift. "Man shall not live by bread alone." God has given us His word of Truth to nourish our spiritual beings and to strengthen and guide us in all life's labors. Others who have not this highest gift need it. Our best Thanksgiving is when we give the Gospel to those who are poor because they have it not. Thanksgiving is thanks-giving, and thanks-giving is giving. God gives because he loves. Remember that we "may give without loving, but we cannot love without giving." Motive is all important with God. Let us get our hearts right and out of love we shall always try to do good and so make every day a real Thanksgiving Day.

OCTOBER 25.—OUR FRENCH BOYS AND GIRLS IN QUEBEC. John 14: 1-5.

A study of Canadian history will refresh our memories regarding the early days in Canada, which at one time be-



A COUPLE OF STEEL WORKERS OILING THE WORKING PARTS OF THE GIANT DERRICK AT THE NEW BOOK ROOM.

longed to France. In 1763, by the Treaty of Paris, it was ceded to Britain. This treaty protected the religion of the French, and when the British parliament passed the Quebec Act in 1774, Roman Catholic privileges were established in the Province of Quebec. Find out in history and geography the important position Quebec holds in Eastern Canada. Learn something of its timber limits and mineral wealth. Its most valuable asset, we believe, is its men and women, boys and girls. The following questions are all answered in the leaflet prepared by the Forward Movement office. A most interesting meeting may be held by following same.

When did the first Protestant missionary begin work in the Province of Quebec? Who were the other early missionaries? When did the Methodist Church begin work for the French Roman Catholics? While the boys were provided for, was anything done for the girls? Has the work of the French Methodist Institute proved successful? What is the testimony of Dr. Villard, Principal, regarding the work of the Institute? What do some of the ex-pupils say? What educational standing has the Institute? What other mission work is carried on by the Methodist Church?

A Frenchman named De Putron was sent by the British Wesleyan Church about the year 1819, to labor in Montreal and Quebec. Later, in 1834, Mr. Oliver came from Switzerland, also Madame Feller and Mr. Roussay. The Methodist Church began work among the French Roman Catholics in 1864. Feeling the need of a school for boys to be trained eventually for the ministry, Rev. L. N. Beaudry began aggressive work in 1878. A school for girls was opened in Montreal in 1885, which was moved to Actonvale. Later the boys' institute and the girls' school united in the French Methodist Institute. The work there now includes all grades from primary to matriculation.

The last Report shows 110 pupils in attendance last year—60 boys and 50 girls. Of these three were Syrian, five Indian, six Italian, thirteen English, eighty-three French. Fifty-two were from Roman Catholic and fifty-eight from Protestant vinctal examinations. At the annual receptive service, three students were baptized and seventeen were received as members of the Methodist Church. Thus the Institute is preparing pupils for useful service. Dr. Villard, the Principal, regards the work as most vital. He says, "The spiritual influence of the school is deepening. Its effects are still with a large group of former students. Many of them residing in the city attend our Sunday school regularly." Testimonies and letters from former students are most gratifying. Educationally our French Institute is second to none of its kind in the Province of Quebec.

In Montreal we have the French Protestant Home for orphan and destitute children. The pastor of the French Protestant Church conducts a service in French in the Home every Sunday afternoon. The children enjoy this service very much and heartily help in the singing.

French day schools are conducted and are well attended.

"Colporteurs and Bible women go from house to house explaining and selling the Scriptures. In some homes they are very kindly received, while in others they are not so welcome. The children attending the Sunday and day schools bring into their homes Bible truths and often their parents become interested. Besides, there are the regular preaching services in the French Methodist Churches on Sunday and during the week."—C. G. W.

NOVEMBER 1.—ABRAHAM AND HIS FAMILY. Gen. 17: 1-8

We are commencing in this Topic some wonderful character studies. The men whose lives we are to look into briefly, have impressed the whole world, and every succeeding age since they lived has honored them. We can only study a very little about them, and rather than try to tell here all the biographical facts our Juniors should know, we want to encourage them to read for themselves. So, on the topic cards on sale at the Book Room there are given in the title of a number of books dealing with Old Testament biography, and we advise our Junior League Superintendents to secure some of these