

## Junior Department.

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### Junior Topics.

Aug. 10th.—How to help the boys and girls who do not have a good time.—Eph. 4. 32.

This is vacation month, and our topic last week was "How to have a good time." One of the lessons we learned in our topic study then is the quality we need to begin with—generosity. Our text has two words we must consider—"one" and "another," and it speaks of our being kind "one to another." You are the "one." How about the other one? You may have all you need to give you a happy vacation, the other one may be poor. There may be some other cause prevented from knowing any of your joy or pleasure. Cannot you do something to "share up" as we learned last week? While we who are healthy and strong are enjoying ourselves, let us not forget the others who cannot really get much pleasure out of the holidays. No matter how little we do for "one another," we get as well as give. The sweetest pleasure is not in getting, but in giving. This did Christ—he gave Himself. And as he did, so we are exhorted to do. The giving that toy to your sick neighbor boy brought you more pleasure than keeping it for yourself would have given. When you carried those sweet flowers to the bed-ridden woman, you found satisfaction in her pleasure, did you not? Of course you did, for this is the law governing all help—whom helps others, helps himself.

It is surprising how many there are who cannot have as good a time as we have, and whom we can help. We do not need to look long or go far to find them. So dear Juniors, hunt them up, share your pleasures with them, do it for Christ's sake, and you will double your own joys by sharing them with another. Rather than being envious of those who have more than we, let us think of the many who have less, and seek to increase their scanty store. And always remember that "if the best things are not yours, the best use may be made of those that are." To make the most of what we have is the right way to get the greatest satisfaction out of having it. This is as true of Juniors as of seniors, of little things as of great, and if we learn that by using what we have we shall get more, we shall not fret at the small amount we have; but try to put it to the best possible use.

So, if you have a book another has not, loan it to him; if you have flowers, cut them and send them out to brighter lives that are less happy than yours; if you have a boat, take one who has none for a ride with you—in short, divide your pleasures, and so double them. In this way you can multiply the blessing and multiplication at the same time. And if the ones you help, help others, and so on and on, how great will be the sum total of help given. Have a good time, and remember that one of the best ways of having it is to help others, that you may rejoice together, and no one grumble.

Aug. 17th.—How to be true Juniors in Vacation.—Ecc. 9. 10.

This text suggests the possible danger of indolence during vacation. It really ought to be at least no harder to be a true Junior during the holiday season than when at school, and to many we would think it would be easier, for the

care and worry of school life are not confined to the teachers. Our boys and girls have their school trials as we old Juniors remember well. But laziness is never in place. There is no room for a careless, indifferent boy or girl in this world. To do with one's mind, and to mean to have a purpose in our doing, and then be energetic about it. Whether work or play, study or recreation, we should go about it as if we meant it and always do our best. "True Juniors" are duties that live according to the Junior Pledge all the time and everywhere. The Pledge is the text of our loyalty. If we break it carelessly or wilfully we are not true. "True Juniors" then are dependable boys and girls who perform their duties to God and their companions regularly and well. I hope your Junior League has no summer vacation; but that your meetings are held in August as well as they were in March or April, for if you have a vacation it will not be surprising if the members forget to do their duty daily. The vacation (day school holidays is meant) should only apply to the routine study in the "class-room" at school. Church duties, weekly studies, Sunday-school duties, personal religious duties, are the same whether day-school meets or not, and a "true Junior" does not forget this. "True Juniors in vacation," then, are—

1. As diligent in religious duties as when school meets daily. Religious studies may cease for a while to give the tired brain a chance to rest and recuperate; but the heart always needs to be carefully taught and "kept with all diligence." The boy's body may need relaxation and the vacation means to him extra time for play and recreation away from the constant strain of study; but his morals must be as carefully guarded through July and August as in September and October.

2. As studious of the Word of God and as worshipful of its Author as at any other time. So "true Juniors in vacation" season do not neglect the daily reading of the Bible, daily prayer, or weekly public worship; but are as regular as clockwork in all these things. They do with their "might" whatever needs to be done, and because it is hot weather and the weekly League meeting is inclined to be a little slow in consequence, they put the more energy into their exercises and make things "go" with a joyful vim that is a delight to the Superintendent and a profit to the members. The only successful way to be "true Juniors in vacation" or out of vacation is by being at it, all at it, and always at it. In the "might" of a determined will guided by Divine Wisdom and aided by God's Grace.

Aug. 24th.—"Getting ready for work."—Psa. 51. 10.

Junior Leagues are not intended to merely make boys and girls good; but good for something. If they are not better students from Monday morning to Friday evening because they belong to the Junior League, they are not getting all they should from their union with the Society. Our topic suggests that "a clean heart" and "a right spirit" are to be carried by every pupil to school work. The only correct way to get ready for school work is to look on getting an education as much in the line of God's will as "getting religion." The influence of day and Sunday-schools on the moral natures of the young may not be the same in degree, but should not differ in kind. A boy will be none the poorer student of arithmetic, grammar, geography, or literature because he has become a Christian; but rather, a better student. Religion is as good at school as at church, and is needed in the perhaps more. So, dear Juniors, do not look at school work from 9 a.m. Monday to 4 p.m. Friday as drudgery; but as a needed preparation for the future of your life, and go to your studies as much

for God's glory as you do at your Bible or prayers. Remember, he never puts any premium on laziness. You may pray by the hour, but that will not exclude the necessity of diligent application to your books. You will learn none the less readily because you pray; but you cannot learn grammar, mathematics, chemistry, or any other subject in your school curriculum by simply praying about it. Get ready for your coming school work, then—

1. By making up your mind that you are going to work, to do honest, faithful study every day.

2. By looking at school studies as a part of life—preparatory to the sterner part that will come when you have left the class-room for the real business of the world.

3. By asking God to help you in your work.

(a) Giving you a determination to learn.

(b) Helping you keep at it perseveringly.

(c) Giving you strength to study.

(d) Giving you grace to avoid idle and evil companions.

(e) Keeping your heart clean and full of his love. This will make study, if not easy, at least pleasurable, for you do all "in His Name."

4. By remembering that next to God, your parents are interested in your successes, and will be proud of you if you win.

Hoping thus that you may find yourselves recuperated after a jolly and healthful vacation, we bid you all get ready for work—the school bell will soon be ringing.

Aug. 31st.—"A promise lesson."—2 Peter 1. 4.

This should be a beautiful meeting in which many take part. The programme may be prepared in a variety of ways. Perhaps one of the best would be to prepare a week ahead a number of suggestive questions (written slips) like the following, and give them out to the members to be answered at the promise meeting. After the leader has given a short talk about the faithfulness of God to his promises, and hence the unfailing nature of his promises to us, or some such kindred subject, let the slips be read, and answered as far as practicable from memory.

(Suggested sample questions easily occurring to the mind of the Superintendent.)

1. Find the first recorded promise in the Bible.

2. What did God promise Abraham in Gen. 12?

3. What great promise did God give Moses?

4. What did God promise the Hebrews in the Sunday-school lesson of July 6th?

5. What great promise did God make to Solomon in 1 Kings 9?

6. What was the condition of God's promise to Solomon in 1 Kings 9?

7. What promise did our Lord leave with his followers when he was about to ascend into heaven?

8. Name some great promise God made to St. Paul when in danger?

9. What promise in Rev. 2, includes us all?

(Scores of such questions will occur to the Superintendent and as many slips should be prepared as there are members. Grade the question according to the intelligence and advancement of the Junior concerned.)

The September subjects are all grouped under the general heading—

### EVERY DAY LIVING.

Sept. 7.—"At Play."—Matt. 7. 12.

Sept. 14.—"At Home."—Rom. 12. 10.

Sept. 21.—"In School."—Heb. 13. 17.

Sept. 28.—"In God's House."—Hab. 2. 20.

Sept. 7th.—"At Play." Our topic advises the Juniors to be guided by the