

A Little Bird Tells.

It's strange how little boys' mothers
Can find it all out as they do
If a fellow does anything naughty,
Or says anything that's not true!
They'll look at you just for a moment,
Till your heart in your bosom swells,
And then they know all about it—
For a little bird tells!

Now, where the little bird comes from,
Or where the little bird goes,
If he's covered with beautiful plumage,
Or black as the king of crows;
If his voice is as hoarse as a raven's,
Or clear as the ringing bells,
I know not; but this I am sure of—
A little bird tells.

The moment you think a thing wicked,
The moment you do a thing bad,
Or angry, or sullen, or hateful,
Get ugly, or stupid, or mad,
Or tease a dear brother or sister—
That instant your sentence he knells,
And the whole to mamma in a minute
The little bird tells.

You may be in the depths of the closet;
Where nobody sees but a mouse;
You may be alone in the cellar;
You may be on top of the house;
You may be in the dark and in silence,
Or out in the woods and the dells—
No matter! Wherever it happens,
The little bird tells!

And the only contrivance to stop him
Is just to be sure what you say—
Sure of your facts and your fancies,
Sure of your work and your play;
Be honest, be brave, and be kindly,
Be gentle and loving as well,
And then you can laugh at the stories
The little bird tells.

Live Buckwheat.

BY MRS. S. E. KENNEDY.

When I was a little girl my father used to tell me about a tiny insect which he called "the live buckwheat"; and when one day he took me out to an old building and showed me a great cluster of curious little creatures upon the clapboards, I did not wonder at the funny name he had given them.

I used often to go with my father to see the fields of buckwheat in bloom, and I shall never forget the beautiful sight or the fragrance which the summer winds wafted across the waves of white blossoms. And when the pleasant summer was over and the men brought the grain into the big old barn to thresh it, I liked to gather up handfuls of the curious three-cornered seeds, and wonder why these did not move about like those I had seen upon the clapboards. This was a long time ago, and I sometimes wonder why I never see them now, but if you will listen I will tell you what I did see no longer ago than last summer. You might perhaps call it a "live beechnut," for that is what it most resembled; but it was in reality an insect called the "leaf-hopper," which lives upon the twigs of young trees, often doing them much injury. If you care to see one for yourself go out and search the small twigs of apple, pear or maple, or, indeed, those of almost any fruit or shade tree, and if you find one, which looks as though it had been scarred with a knife, look closely for the yellowish-green insect. These scars are made with its sharp beak for the purpose of sucking the sap.

It is well for children to be on the lookout for the many interesting sights which summer and autumn bring, for a season should never go by in which you may not be able to say: "I am wiser this year than I was last."

A woman who does not reach the five feet two inches of height with which the average woman is accredited according to statistics, has recently builded herself a house. The closet opening off her bedroom embodies, to quote her own words, "all that I have missed in every closet which I have ever used." At one end are three wide shallow drawers that "never stick;" these are for evening dress skirts, each fitted with a sachet covering, lavender-scented; the hooks along the sides of the closets are within the easy reach, carefully measured, of the closet's owner, and surmounting them is a broad shelf where rows of shoes, boots and slippers are picked off without effort by the short woman who wears them. The capacity of the closet is further increased by double hooks screwed in the under side of the shelf. The floor is carefully fitted with an oilcloth covering, and in the doorway, running easily on a slender pole and rings, is a muslin curtain, that with the wooden door keeps out all dust.

Julius Goldsmith, of Milwaukee, has been appointed consul general to Berlin. Mr. Goldsmith held this post under the Harrison administration.

Mayor Benjamin F. Brickett, of Haverhill, Mass., was stricken by apoplexy while sitting in a chair at his home on Monday and died in a few hours. He was a prominent man in Democratic politics.

The Young People.

EDITORS, - - - - - (REV. E. E. DALEY,
A. H. CHIPMAN.)

Kindly address all communications for this department
to A. H. Chipman, St. John.

Prayer Meeting Topics for May.

C. E. Topic.—Christian enterprise, Jonah 3:1-10.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—How may our Young People's Society do better work, (consideration of the work of committees), 1 Thes. 5:12-23.

B. Y. P. U. Daily Bible Readings.

(Baptist Union.)

Monday, May 3.—Job 19:1-18. His cry unheard by God, (vs. 7). Compare Hab. 1:1-4.

Tuesday, May 4.—Job 19:19-29. Associates turned against him, (vs. 19). Compare Ps. 55:12-14.

Wednesday, May 5.—Job 20:1-10. Triumph of the wicked is short, (vs. 5). Compare Job 5:3, 4.

Thursday, May 6.—Job 20:11-29. Portion of the wicked from God. Compare Job 27:13-15.

Friday, May 7.—Job 21:1-21. Punishment certain for the wicked, (vs. 19). Compare Num. 14:18.

Saturday, May 8.—Job 21:22-34. Only God knows the mystery, (vs. 22, 23). Compare 1 Cor. 2:16.

Prayer Meeting Topic for the week beginning May 2,
"How may our Young People's Society do better work?"
1 Thes. 5:12-23.

(NOTES BY REV. G. W. SCHURMAN.)

The Young People never did a better work than is being done at present, yet there is room for improvement. Our aim should be to do the best work of which we are capable. How to take a step in this direction is the important question.

By increased spiritual life. The work now being done by each Society is according to the spiritual life of its members. We are well organized and are growing in knowledge. Our greatest need is power, power from God such as He gives to the spiritually minded. There is no substitute for a spiritual life. It must be sought and obtained before better work can be done. "But I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Cor. 15:10. Examine Acts 1:4-9.

By sustaining a closer relation between the Society and the prayer meeting of the church. The Young People need the help of the church and the church needs the hearty support of the society. Do our Young People do their duty in this work? is a question worthy of the most careful consideration of each Society. No Society wishing to do better work for the Master can afford to neglect the work of the church. Beware of the zeal that is not according to knowledge.

By using better judgment in appointing committees, especially chairmen. Select those most adapted and best fitted for the work.

By the committees doing the work assigned them. Not pray about and plan to do, but actually do the work. Not a few days before making a report, but all through the term. Let the Membership committee urge every young person of the church to unite with the society. Invite, entreat, compel, should be the motto of this committee. Let the Social committee obtain, from the pastor, the names of strangers each week. Call on and welcome the stranger while yet a stranger. Introduce the members to each other about once a month. Let the Devotional committee make a wiser choice of leaders for the prayer-meetings. Some members should never be asked to lead while others should often lead. 1 Cor., 12:28; Eph., 4:11; Rom., 12:6-8.

By being punctual. Of course we mean all, and at all times. What can be more against the interest of a meeting than to have it begin late or to have one half of the members come in while the meeting is in progress? "Better late than never, but better never late."

By sitting near the leader of the meeting. If he sits near the door surround him there, but if to the front he near him. Should he request you to come nearer by all means comply.

By preparing at home to do your duty in the meeting. Spend a few minutes, at least, in prayer, and carefully read the selected scriptures.

By all the members giving strict attention during what has been regarded as preliminaries. There is a chance for great change in this part of the service.

By reading once each week the scripture selected for May 2.

Our society talk it up, by all means. Pray for it to be sure, but don't forget that our society stands for our church. We do not talk about our society too much, but we do talk about our church in our society too little. The whole is greater than its part. Talk of the greater and you will include the lesser. Talk is cheap, but get it under a boulder and you will find it a strong lever. Talk may only be gas, but it may be gas that will lift the balloon to where it can drop shell into the camp of the enemy. The gamely Christian who does some talking about his church will usually have more than words to tell which side of the fence he is on.

B. Y. P. U. Notes.

Winter has folded up his tent and stolen coolly away. Nobody weeps. Why should we? He is a surly old fellow with a roar in his voice and an icy glare in his eye. Our ears yet tingle from the slap of his hands. His room is better than his company, especially since in his stead he has left his lovely young daughter, the laughing spring, and yet we must not forget that while frosty winter ruled the land "with all his train of vapors, clouds and storms" that gracious privileges were ours. Snowy ways and wanton winds were not sufficient to keep us from God's house. Shall spring's seductive smile? Young people beware. Remember that in the Devil's wardrobe hangs the garment of an angel of light. Spring's soft caresses may accomplish what winter's angry blows were powerless to effect. B. Y. P. U. night in your church—but the bicycle! Look at the roads. What a night for a spin. Be careful. A serpent may be hidden in a rose. Remember your past. It may be band night. The brooks may be ripe for the speckled beauties. They bite well when the sun goes down. Look out. The enemies hook is baited.

"A nose that can smell a rat
Should be found on every cat."

Resist the spring on the young peoples night and the devil will flee from you. "Live fish swim against the stream." Let the young Christian of your society be true to the pledge and we shall soon hear of a revival in your church.

Do you feel the responsibility in your society. Why not? Well, there is the president, the executive, the membership committee, the other committees. Very well, but they do not carry your share of the responsibility. To you your society will be a failure up to the point where you begin to do something for it. It may be the best society in the province but, there will be but in it to you until you throw your weight in somewhere. Remember that the only man that has a right to grumble is the one who has waded into the work over his ears; and he has no time.

Get to work arranging for the summer. The Christian has no time for hibernating. Think up something new. Every B. Y. P. U. ought to have a lumber room to store away its worn-out methods. There is power even in a new smile. We are to bait our hook so that the fish will bite.

What about the regular church prayer meeting. Do we attend it? We have a seat there. Bury beyond a resurrection the thought that it is not our meeting. When the church gave us a license to hold a young peoples service it was on the condition that it should be an extra, not a substitute. If circumstances limit us to one meal a week then it ought to be in company of our older relatives in the King's family. The raw recruit finds his nerves strengthened by the presence of the veteran. The young people's gatherings may have vine, but it is on those of maturer experience, that have reached higher heights, who like the mountain tops catch the foregleams of the oncoming day. We need to blend ripeness with our youthful ardor. The young Elisha caught a double portion of the old Elijah's spirit when he followed hard after him. A well organized choir demands varied voices, and the praises of God are most sweetly chanted when the tremelo of age joins with the clear notes of youth. Our old brethren will love our work better when they see us more.

Central Clarence B. Y. P. U.

We have elected the following officers for the ensuing term: Pres., Fred N. Banks; Vice-Pres., T. E. Smith; Sec'y, Bessie Banks; Cor.-Sec'y, Wm. Creelman; Treas., Eldon M. Marshall. Our meetings during the winter have been well attended and the interest fairly good. The interest in the missionary meetings has been deepening and the attendance has been large. The visit made by Miss Newcombe to our Union previous to her leaving for India, was an inspiration to many of us. Our late president read a letter last Sunday evening from Bro. Gullison to our Union, in which he gave us a little of his own feelings mingled with the great need of that dark, benighted land. The number taking the S. I. Course have been very few, but they have not failed in gaining a large blessing in giving attention to this work. We ask to be remembered before the throne of grace by sister Unions.

WM. CREELMAN, Cor.-Sec'y.

April 12.

Gaspereaux, Kings Co., N. S.

At a special business meeting of the Gaspereaux, B. Y. P. U., the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Silas Baker; Vice President, Mrs. Judson Millet; Secretary, Flora Benjamin; Treasurer, Allie Davison.

BESSIE M. BINGAY, Cor. Sec'y.