

"What a Junior Can Do for Christ"

A PAPER READ AT LONDON CONFERENCE CONVENTION BY CRESWELL ANDERSON.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," was advice aptly given by one who with ripe experience and a keen insight into human nature was in a position to know whereof he spoke. And perhaps at the present time as in no other period of her history the Christian Church is awakening to the fact that there are wonderful possibilities in the child, and is devising means of so nurturing and training the young that they will fulfil another mandate of the wise old sage who also said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

To this end was our Junior Epworth League organized. Its object is to secure religious instruction and spiritual nurture for the children and to train for definite service, to look up and lift up for Christ and the Church.

Now, our discussion this afternoon is, "How can a Junior do this?"

Let us consider the question under the three heads of, What can a Junior do in the home, at school, and in church? These are the environments of the earlier years of our lives.

1. It is in the home perhaps that the closest watch is necessary and the hardest battles to be fought; for, although surrounded by the love and care of parents and brothers and sisters, still it is here, too, that duties and tasks have to be performed, that often, to active, fun-loving boys and girls, seem hard and irksome, and here we must exercise the greatest patience, perseverance, obedi-

ence to our elders, pulteness, and kindness to our brothers and sisters, and with it all to cultivate a happy manner and cheerful disposition, for surely our Master loveth not only a "cheerful giver," but a cheerful Christian.

Let the loving, gentle spirit of Christ manifest itself in us, and it will surely shed its benign influence on those around us, and perchance may lead some one to love our Saviour, too.

2. Then, next to our home life comes our school life, for here more of our waking hours are spent than in the home. Here surely *obedience* is the first law of service. Our time should be wisely employed, for here is where we receive our equipment largely, for future service. Here we should "study to show ourselves approved." Then in the playground, what opportunities of showing our Christian character. Let no rude or unseemly word, or jest, or action stand out to accuse us as we offer our bed-time prayer? In our dealing with our playmates let us observe the Golden Rule. "As ye would that others should do to you, do ye even so to them."

Have fun? Of course! Have a good, rollicking, jolly time, for that is just as natural for healthy boys and girls as to eat and sleep, but let it be clean, wholesome fun.

3. In the church: here we should remember that we are in God's House, and no noisy or boisterous behaviour should ever be indulged in. We should be punctual and attentive during preaching service, and, although we may not just be able to follow the thread of the discourse, still it is but seldom that even the youngest of us cannot glean grains of Gospel truth and helpful teaching for the activities of the coming week.

Our seat should never be vacant in the Sunday School, for here is our opportunity of studying Scripture and memorizing passages that will be kept in memory through life.

Let us be on the lookout for boys and girls who do not attend religious services at all. Invite them to come to Sunday School and League.

And just here let me drop a word in favor of the "Pocket Testament League." If we form the habit now of daily reading a chapter, the habit will become fixed and we will not neglect it as we grow older.

And in our Junior League itself we should join heartily with our leader in making the service interesting. We can do much by willingly and cheerfully doing what she asks us to do in the way of preparing topics, filling offices, offering short prayers, singing heartily, and in fact being ready for whatever comes in the exercises of the day.

THE SIN OF THE DRUNKARD.

The social revel, the wine dinner, the saloon, example, custom, temptations, may lead a man to indulge in liquor till he becomes a drunkard; but, after all, it is because HE DRINKS, knowing the peril to which this exposes him. Hence, however censurable the customs of society, however mischievous the laws which tolerate and shield the agencies of intemperance, however wicked the temptors, the SIN lies in his own door.—Dr. Thompson.



THE FIRST EASTER MORN.

AND it is a beautiful transition, to our conception, that angels are introduced into the tomb. The management of spirits has always been the test of genius; but where can you find such management of spirits as here? Where can you find such angelic appearances so fit? Where can you find demeanor so admirable? Where can you find words so noble? For, while angels are represented as singing at the advent of the Saviour, they are represented as sitting silent in the sepulchre. Two, there were; and we may imagine one the Angel of Hope, and the other the Angel of Memory; as if the angel at the feet were tracing the history of Christ as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," while the angel at the head was looking for the joy that was before Him, and into which He was about to enter. There is no machinery; there is no ostentation; there is no undue prominence given to this feature of the scene. It was just sketched in with a single stroke.—H. W. Beecher.