

slow to understand the meaning of His words. In the distance He saw a farmer, a man sowing seed. Jesus explained this everyday occurrence. As the disciples and people listened, they knew quite well that often seed fell along the edge of the road, where passersby would tread it down into the hard earth. There were rocky places, too, where the soil was thin, giving no depth of earth for the seed to grow

and knew there were twenty generous men ready to help, where before there had been only three or four.

A young woman who was a member of a Sunday school class took her work and went one afternoon to visit a woman kept at home by sickness. The woman was poor and uninteresting. The visit was really a common little brown deed. But other members of the class saw it, knew what it meant, and in their hearts

that springs up and bears generous fruit—thirty, sixty and a hundredfold."—C. G. W.

NOV. 12.—CHRIST AND THE STORM.
Mark 4: 36-41.

In the spring morning, when tulip and narcissus gave beauty to the land round about, Jesus called His disciples together, and as they all sat on the green hillside by the Sea of Galilee, a crowd soon assembled. Jesus then entered His boat, which He so often used as a pulpit, from which He could talk to the people, and taught them again in parables, the great truths from nature. In the evening the people gathered again. But Jesus was weary after the day's work and needed rest. So He said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." With Jesus the disciples got into the boat, which was now to be a resting-place for their Master. Other little ships, no doubt, followed. During the sail Jesus fell asleep. Around the Sea of Galilee were steep mountains and deep ravines. Through them fierce winds often came, changing the calm water into tossing waves. And this night a great storm arose. The disciples were afraid, but their Master slept quietly, as if rocking in a cradle. The water soon began to come into the boat, and the disciples, forgetting that they were with Jesus, where they would always be safe, began to cry out, "Master, Master, we perish." Jesus awoke, and, calmly rising, said, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then He gave that wonderful command, "Peace, be still," and the waters were quiet. While this was a wonderful miracle, impress rather upon the minds of the Juniors the lesson of *safety with Jesus*, rather than the stilling of the waters. Ask for some of the things which disturb our lives. How can fears be calmed and distrust be removed? What is faith? Does Jesus always respond to the cry for help? See also 1 Cor. 15: 27; Heb. 2: 5-9; Col. 1: 16, 17.—C. G. W.

NOV. 19.—THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES. John 15: 1-8.

Truth—Our Life is derived from Christ and depends on Him.

Jesus in our lesson is in Jerusalem during the last week of His life, and



GRAND FORKS JUNIORS DOING THEIR SPRING WORK IN THEIR GARDEN.

after it had sprouted. And seed falling among thorns or weeds had a poor chance, because it was choked.

Jesus told them of the wayside hearer who hears, but the message does not reach his mind nor heart. The stony ground hearer was one who had no stability of character, being influenced by every passing thought. Nothing takes deep root or becomes a part of his life. The choked-soil hearer might have had good soil, but was lazy, indolent, and poorly cultivated his talents, and never fulfilled a promise.

Impress upon the minds of the Juniors that their characters are as soil which needs cultivation. Ask them to name some of the seeds which they may plant therein. Give some of the results from sowing these seeds. Contrast the old and new methods of sowing. Tell of the careful preparation, the ploughing, harrowing, planting, and reaping in farm work.

Shall our lives show weeds or golden grain?

The following might be profitably read by a Junior:

LITTLE BROWN DEEDS.

"It is wonderful that a little brown seed carried over through the winter from last year, when planted, will spring up into a plant, covered with beautiful blossoms that later grow into fifty or a hundred little brown seeds as good and perfect as the one from which they sprang.

"And deeds are quite as wonderful. Many a little brown deed, common and uninteresting and hard to do, if planted by love, springs up in the hearts of other people and yields scores of deeds as good and useful as the one planted.

"In a little vacant store room beside the street I saw one day a doctor working with a man who had been hurt on the railroad. The man was a tramp. The work the doctor did was common, hard, unpleasant medical work. But he did it for the love of the poor, hurt wanderer. And as I watched the men standing around I saw that deed of the doctor's taking root in their hearts;

grew the plant of sympathy and helpfulness.

"One day a hundred men stood around the smoldering ruins of a neighbor's home. The building was not insured and all the household goods had burned.

The crowd started to scatter, leaving the discouraged family disconsolately alone with the ashes of all their possessions. But one man stepped up to the neighbor and handed him ten dollars. It was a plain little brown deed. But some one else saw it, hesitated, thought a minute, then came up and did likewise. The spirit spread. The men came back and gathered around the neighbor. Somebody started a hat



GRAND FORKS JUNIORS REAPING THEIR FLORAL HARVEST.

—and the gifts and promises were over a thousand dollars.

"So it is; we never know what our little brown deeds are going to grow into. Indeed, we need think little about it. The main thing is to have that sympathy, that love for others, that purity of purpose which prompts us to coin our good wishes into solid deeds—little brown deeds, perhaps plain and hard to do, but full of kernel,—the kernel

gives to His disciples another parable. He most likely looked out upon the grapevines growing up the city wall, or upon the golden grapes upon the vines about the temple court, or perhaps He could see heaps of vine-grunings on the way to Olivet. You will be able to find a number of references to the vine in the Old Testament. The vine and the branches are dependent on each other.—The vine gives the nourishment, but the