

## Junior Department

Conducted by REV. S. T. BAITLETT, Colborne, Ont., Vice-President in charge of the Junior League section of General Sunday-School and Epworth League Board. He invites correspondence from all Junior League workers to add interest to this Department of the Era.

### Items

The Colborne Junior League, under the direction of Miss Stanley, have prepared and sent to the Deseronto Home in Toronto, a large box of clothing for use among the poor. The box was full of contributions from many in the congregation who readily seconded the praiseworthy efforts of the Juniors. How much suffering might be alleviated in part at least, if the serviceable garments of many a prosperous home were well distributed among the suffering poor! Remember, such merciful deeds are "twice blessed." "Mercy... blesseth him that gives and him that takes." Try it!

In a bright and interesting letter, dated February 9th, Miss Anna McLeod reports the reorganization of the Bothwell Junior Epworth League, which had been inoperative for some time. The League has been reofficered and starts out with good promise. The meetings are held in the church on Saturday afternoons. They are brightened by the singing of a Junior choir. This is a splendid idea, and with little trouble many other superintendents, who complain of dull meetings, might add to the pleasure and profit of the hour by using the services of a well practised choir. Solos, duets, choruses, etc., in plenty may easily be found suitable for the fresh young voices of the girls and boys. Miss McLeod speaks a few good words for the Era, and hopes to be able to report systematic work for the Forward Movement for Missions soon. We hope to hear from Bothwell again, and hope they will have taken up the regular Weekly Topics as prepared by the General Board before then—don't substitute "easy" ones of your own. Get the list for all your members from the Book Room and follow them up regularly.

### Weekly Topics

#### God's House.

- Mon., March 6.—The Tabernacle. Heb. 9. 2-8.  
 Tues., March 7.—The Tabernacle at Shiloh. Josh. 18. 1.  
 Wed., March 8.—Solomon's Temple. 1 Kings 6. 1-14.  
 Thurs., March 9.—The Second Temple. Ezra 3. 8-11.  
 Fri., March 10.—Jesus in the Temple. John 10. 23.  
 Sat., March 11.—The House of Prayer. Matt. 21. 12-14.  
 Sun., March 12.—Topic: God's House and why we should honor it. Exod. 25. 8, 9; 29. 43-46.

The story of the establishment of the tabernacle for worship in the wilderness may be made very interesting to the Juniors. Appoint some one to prepare a short paper describing the tabernacle. Any good Bible dictionary will give abundant materials for this. Show how the need for a settled and permanent place of worship was felt when the people had settled in Canaan. This led to the building of the Temple of Solomon. The King's prayer at the dedication of the temple ought to be read. Find it in 1 Kings 8th chapter. Note verses 21, 27, 29, 30, 52, 60 and 61. The reason for building the house and the object of its services are fully shown. Places of worship are thus very old, and especially among the Hebrew people were houses used for the worship of Jehovah. All

that the tabernacle and temple of old stood for to the Jews, our houses of worship (churches) should mean to us to-day. The one essential purpose of their existence is worship, and the main elements of their worship are praise and prayer. Every church building therefore should be looked upon by us as the one place of all the most sacred to the public worship of God. It is this that makes the church His. Every place in His, every building belongs to Him; but the church having been built for Him alone, and having been set apart for His worship especially, should always be esteemed as a peculiarly sacred place. We fear that many of our young people have no especial reverence for the house of God. It is God's own house because the people have built it for His glory and have dedicated it to His worship as truly as Solomon did the temple of olden time. "Why should we honor it?" There are many reasons; but mainly (1) Because of its owner. It is sure evidence that we do not think much of God if we act unbecomingly in His house. You would not think it a mark of esteem on the part of any of your friends if they were to come into your house and disarrange or destroy or criticize unkindly your pictures. We show what we think of one another by the way we use what belongs to one another. Young people really show what they think of God by the way they use the things of God. (2) Because of its purpose. It is a place for worship and should be kept holy accordingly. (3) Because of its associations. God's people come there. They come to sing His praise, to pray to Him, to be instructed in His Word, and everything out of keeping with this is dishonoring to the place and its Divine owner. (4) Because if we dishonor God's house the result will surely be lost to ourselves. We will suffer more than the place will. Our good name will become tarnished, our character will be hardened, an throughout our characters we will become unlike God. Honor the house in your thoughts, by your words, in your deeds while there, and make it the centre of everything that leads to and informs about God. (See Eccles. 5. 1.)

#### WILLING GIVERS.

- Mon., March 13.—"That giveth it willingly." Exod. 25. 1, 2.  
 Tues., March 14.—"A willing heart." Exod. 35. 5.  
 Wed., March 15.—They offered willingly. 1 Chron. 29. 6-9.  
 Thurs., March 16.—Giving God His own. 1 Chron. 29. 13, 14.  
 Fri., March 17.—Freely give. Matt. 10. 8.  
 Sat., March 18.—More blessed to give. Acts 20. 35.  
 Sun., March 19.—Topic: A story of some willing givers. Exod. 35. 21-29. (Missions meeting.)

The story of the lesson to-day is connected with the building and furnishing of the tabernacle. If your Juniors appreciated the topic of last week by they will be better able to appreciate the lessons to-day. Show that in this work that Moses had in hand (1) There were many things needed. (2) Everything needed had a place in the building and its services. (3) The furnishings of the tabernacle were largely provided by the people. (4) All were asked to contribute something. (5) What they gave was to be given willingly. (6) Their gifts were for use. (7) There was abundance given by willing givers so that the work was done. (Exod. 35. 6-7.) The application of these points to our missionary work is very easy and appropriate. The need is constantly pressing, it can be met only by continued gifts and ceaseless labors on the part of God's people. If the people do not provide the

means for carrying on the work, who will? It cannot be allowed to stop, for the command is, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Until this is done there must be no thought of withdrawing from the work. Every one of all God's hosts is expected to help. There must be no evasion of the duty. It is not for some one else; but for me to do what can be done and do it quickly and with all my heart. What I do thus will be of use, no matter how small it may seem to be. The people did not all give the same things nor equally. (Read Exod. 35. 4-20 and note the many things.) If we all give what we can the work will go on to a glorious and successful completion. But if we do not, the work will be delayed. It must be completed some day; but if we miss our opportunity, the time will soon be passed, the chance to do our part will be gone and we will be the losers. (Make it clear that the secret of the abundant gifts of old was because the people felt deeply interested in the work in hand. Their "hearts" made them willing.) We are not to give grudgingly, but as God gave His Son—freely. The Divine Lord who came as the first Missionary to earth came willingly. The apostles whom He sent to preach His Gospel went willingly. The long list of noble men and women who have become missionaries in all parts of the earth shows names of willing servants of Christ. No missionary has begrudged what he has done for the cause of missions. Many have given their lives in the spirit of their Divine Leader and have never even thought of sacrifice. Livingstone said, "I have never made a sacrifice." He could not have said this if he had not already said, "My Jesus, my King, my Life, my All, I again dedicate my whole self to Thee." If we first give our own selves to the Lord it will not be hard to give our best to Him; but it will be a hard thing to offer to Him what we would sooner keep for ourselves. Let us get our hearts full of love to God, our minds well informed about His work, and it will follow that our hands will be kept busy in His cause. If you do not be well for your League to study the missionary work of our church a little. You can easily find the facts from the Annual Report, and by a little care in arranging them may make a very interesting and profitable study for your Juniors. They need to know. Give them the facts over and over again until they are intelligently interested in the various branches of our missionary operations.)

#### WILLING WORKERS.

- Mon., March 20.—Women workers. Exod. 35. 25, 26.  
 Tues., March 21.—Hearts to work. Exod. 36. 2.  
 Wed., March 22.—Called to be workers. Exod. 31. 1-6.  
 Thurs., March 23.—Wise-hearted Workers. Exod. 35. 10.  
 Fri., March 24.—Labor of Love. Heb. 6. 10-12.  
 Sat., March 25.—A mind to work. Neh. 4. 6.  
 Sun., March 26.—Topic: A story of some willing workers. Exod. 35. 30-35; 36. 1-7.

Sometimes it is easier to give than to do. Some people would much rather pay to have work done than to do it themselves. Last week's study concerned giving. This week we are told of doing. Both go hand in hand in the service of God. The great subject of the King's prayer of God is that He will do everything to the privileges of His Gospel. This is more than merely preaching. It means to bring to every person the grand living truths of God's Word that they may enjoy them in actual practice. There is more than talking to do before