

## The Junior Epworth Era

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### Tippity Toes

Round the world a wizard goes,  
Creeping soft, old Tippity Toes!  
Oh, curious things to us all he does!  
The baby's hair was a yellow fuzz,  
But Tippity Toes, with a magic twist,  
Turned it into a golden curl.

He stretches the children one and all,  
The thin ones grow fat, and the little  
ones tall;  
O'er small boys and girls such a spell  
he weaves,  
Their arms shoot out of the jacket  
sleeves.  
He played on grandpa a saucy trick;  
Why grandpa's hair was once brown and  
thick,  
And now it is thin and as white as the  
snows—  
All the work of old Tippity Toes!

He tiptoes about in his silent way,  
And changes yesterday into to-day;  
Listen, you'll hear him, tick-tock, tick-  
tock—  
Tippity Toes at work with the clock.

Some day, he will cut off my curls, no  
doubt,  
With the scythe, mamma says, that he  
carries about;  
For—would you believe it?—he's made a  
plan,  
To turn me into a great big man.  
—Pauine Frances Camp, in the Boston  
Transcript.

### Weekly Topics

Aug. 18.—"A NEW HEART AND HOW  
TO GET IT." Ezek. 36. 25-27.

"Heart" stands for the whole moral nature. It includes the motives, desires, purposes, plans, affections, resolves—in short—everything that makes us good or bad before God. So that we can at once see how important it is to have a right heart, for as the heart is, so is the life. "Keep this heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life." Everything depends on how the heart is set or fixed. (See text). Israel's heart was set on "idols." So they became indifferent to God, and had what the prophet calls "a stony heart." This gave them a wrong "spirit" (motive) in living and they became "filthy" (foul or unclean) in what they did. It works the same still. If our hearts are set on self we become hard and selfish in our lives. If we live for the world instead of God, we grow worldly and ungodly. "Idols" still exist. Anything we prefer to God becomes to us an idol, and if our hearts are fixed on it, we cannot worship or serve God. How is all this to be remedied? The first commandment tells us. To love God with all our heart is to put Him always first in our desires, to think and feel and act according to His Spirit of love within us. This is "a change of heart" indeed. It puts out self and puts in God. It seeks not the world of folly and sin, but the presence and peace and blessing of God. This "new heart" calls for two things. 1st. That we turn away from sin and, 2nd, Ask God to give us to us. Purpose and Prayer always accompany Piety. If our minds are fully

resolved to cast sin away from us, and if we penitently turn to God for pardon for the past and for power to serve Him in the future, He will not fail us. (v. 26 is sure.)

Aug. 25.—"THE ROAD TO POVERTY."  
(Temperance Meeting.) Prov. 23.  
20-21.

There are different kinds of poverty, but intemperance brings them all. The body, the mind, the character, the pocket, the family, the town, the country, time and eternity—all are impoverished by strong drink. Men will become so enslaved by the drink habit that they will give everything for liquor. John B. Gough once said of men slaves to drink: "Give me drink, I will give you my hard earnings for it. I will give you more than that. I married a wife and promised to love and cherish her and protect her—ah! ah! and I have driven her out to work for me, and I have stolen her wages and I have brought them to you—give me drink and I will give you them! More yet; I have snatched the bit of bread from the white lips of my famished child—I will give you that if you will give me drink! More yet! I will give you my health! More yet; I will give you my manliness! More yet, I will give you my hopes of heaven—body and soul! I will barter jewels worth all the kingdoms of the earth—for what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"—all these for a dram, give it to me!" This is a dreadful picture, but a true one. Water never made a man such a slave as that. But whiskey has made thousands upon thousands of them. What can we do about it? 1. We may resolve by God's help never to touch it ourselves. 2. We may make our Leagues strong Temperance Societies. 3. We may try to relieve the distress of the poor suffering children in the drunkard's home. 4. We may persuade those who have votes, to support every Prohibition law. 5. We may resolve when our time comes to vote that we will never support any man or government that is in any way in sympathy with the Liquor Traffic.

Sept. 1.—"A BOY WITH A PURPOSE."  
(Purpose Meeting.) Dan. 1. 8.

We have four biographical studies during September—all about Daniel and his started out in life. A great deal depends on a boy's start. If he makes no mistake at the beginning he will be saved from a great deal of disaster afterwards. Daniel started right. (It is said that a prime cause made an error in this sentence and the word "spirit" was made to read "spine." It was correct—Daniel had "an excellent spine," lots of backbone, and our boys need it still for purpose) means will, decision, strength, manly backbone. Because Daniel started right, he was able to go on all through his life in the favor of God, and when he was an old man, God sent his angel to comfort and uphold him. (See Dan. 9. 23; 10. 11, 19.) Boys cannot afford to wait until they are grown men before they decide to do God's will. . . . See what Daniel's purpose was. It meant that he was bound to keep himself pure. "He would not defile himself." To defile

means to make foul. He would neither eat nor drink anything that would weaken his body or mind. Every boy should know that only God who made his body, has a right to it. God who gave us our minds should control them. That means that we are not our own to do as we like. Our bodies belong to God and we have no right to neglect or abuse them. So with our minds. If we know this we will not do anything that will displease or dishonor God. To speak clean words, to think pure thoughts, to do right deeds always and everywhere—these are what every boy should "purpose in his heart." It became easy for Daniel for God helped him. So shall it be with us. It paid Daniel for God blessed him. So shall it be with us. Every boy who will "dare to be a Daniel" shall prove that Daniel's God is his, and that Daniel's way of living is still possible. Purpose and prayer always bring power.

Sept. 8.—"LESSONS FROM THE FIERY FURNACE." (Tried and True.)  
Dan. 3. 13-18.

This is a wonderful story, of Three heroes. They were "tried," by being commanded to worship the King's great idol of gold. They were "true" in refusing to admit the right of any but God to receive such divine honors. The great Nebuchadnezzar said, "Bow or Burn." They said, we cannot "bow." God may not allow us to "burn;" but even if He does we will not be false to Him. (vs. 16, 17, 18.) The grand thing about these three heroes was their loyalty to their early religious training. They had been taught in their childhood to worship the true God only. They had learned the commandments and were determined to keep them. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image—thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them,"—these were familiar words to them; but better still, they had the right principle of obedience in their hearts, and not even the great furnace of fire could turn them aside. We need boys who are not easily "scared,"—who know they are doing right, and will keep on doing it no matter what it may cost. This is the true spirit of trust in God. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," is a splendid motto. And the result always proves God's goodness and faithfulness. The three heroes of our story did not "bow." Neither did they "burn." God did not allow them to suffer the cruel death their wicked enemies had prepared for them. But they were ready to die rather than dishonor God. This is the highest kind of bravery. We want boys of pluck, who will not be turned aside from doing right by fear. Such boys will stand firm for their principles everywhere and no fire of ridicule or persecution will turn them aside. Boys that are "through and through" for God and right will make strong, successful men in His Kingdom on earth, and in His Kingdom in Heaven. Be brave for God. Over the great stand door of Rugby school are written the noble words of Emerson:

"How nigh is grandeur to our dust,  
How near is God to man!  
When Duty whispers low, 'Thou must,'  
The youth replies, 'I can.'"