

I did not need to ask any questions to be certain that these bigger boys had decided to form some sort of secret society amongst the class members, and I felt sure no good would come of it, for I had found that they were fellows who spent a great deal of their time on the street, and were beginning to break away from home authority. To be sure, all these youngsters were developing social instincts that demanded an outlet of some sort, for they seemed to crave the companionship of other fellows of their own age. If they joined in with these new boys, they would be simply following the natural tendencies of all Juniors to congregate in gangs or cliques, for the sake of comradeship. And because they were Juniors, they would at once start doing something. Realizing these things, I determined that the companionship should be secured under some kind of oversight and the "something to do" be of the right sort.

Without delay I made plans of attack, for there was no time to lose. A note to each member calling the class to assemble at my home on secret business on a certain evening brought every boy on the tick of the hour, all agog with curiosity. That very night the fellows themselves formed the "Three M's Club," with every one a sworn-in member, pledged to secrecy and loyalty. A club motto, badge and password were chosen, a leader appointed and other such important matters

duly arranged. It was the first real club for each one of these lads and this was a most auspicious occasion. For where is the Junior who does not love secrecy, regalia, the club spirit and all that goes to make up such an organization? An admiration for these things seems to be an inborn part of every boy's make up, at this stage of his development. So why not give them to him in a wholesome way, backed by the church and the Sunday School, instead of allowing other agencies to fill this place in his life?

To make a long story short, the club flourished and kept the boys engaged in so many useful activities, that its influence soon pervaded every day in the week and every hour of every boy's life. The doubtful gang never materialized and the two chaps who had been accustomed to play on the street found themselves too busy doing more interesting things to spare any time for dark plots and questionable schemes which might before long have blossomed forth into hoodlumism and even lawlessness.

Truly, if we watch our Juniors as we would a barometer, and forestall every need as we see it developing, we can keep them from ever going beyond the influence of the Sunday School to satisfy any of the requirements of their unfolding life.

Toronto

Teaching the Boys and Girls About Church Membership

By REV. ROBERT POGUE

Presbyterians believe that all baptized children are members of the church, though not members in full communion. Some, therefore, object to the use of the phrase "joining the church," as applied to such children. But the words are in popular use and all understand what they mean. By "joining the church" or "becoming a church member" is meant a public profession of faith, in which Christ is acknowledged as Saviour, and the promise is made to obey, love and serve him; this profession being followed by partaking of the Lord's Supper. Indeed, "becoming a church member" is generally thought of as confessing Christ for the first time by going to the Communion.

In the minds of many the idea still lives that boys and girls are not fit subjects for church membership for the reason that "they are too young to understand." This idea is a wrong one. More and more it is being realized that boys and girls may properly become church members in full communion at a very early age.

The duty of obedience to the commands of Christ is taught the very youngest child. He is taught, by precept and example, the duty of prayer as soon as he is able to lip the name of Jesus, and the duty of attendance at church as soon as he is able to walk to the house of God. He is taught to love, to be kind, to be truthful, to be honest. The duty of obedience to these commands is urged because they are God's will for all.

Why should boys and girls be reminded of the imperious nature of these commands of God and yet an exception be made of the command of the master, which says: "This do in remembrance of me?" What right has any one, either minister, or elder, or parent, or teacher, to say that this command should not be obeyed by the young because they "are not old enough to understand?" Christ did not thus qualify his words.

How many adults understand fully the teaching of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper? Why should they require of children a knowledge they do not themselves