

Young People's Department.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

February 2—THE PURIFICATION of St. Mary, the Virgin,
otherwise called THE PRESENTATION
OF CHRIST in the Temple.

" 6—SEPTUAGESIMA.

" 13—SEXAGESIMA.

" 20—QUINQUAGESIMA.

" 23—ASH WEDNESDAY.

" 24—ST. MATTHIAS.

" 27—1st Sunday in Lent.

March 6—2nd Sunday in Lent.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

BY J. WHITE.

JANUARY had been unusually mild, and yet Miss Brainard was surprised to see a goodly bunch of Snowdrops on her desk on the morning of February 2nd. "Who brought the little things?" she asked.

"Leila," and a group of day-scholars gave Leila a push forward.

"Thank you ever so much, Leila; but are yours out already? Mine are not.

"No, Miss Brainard; but a great box full came from Ohio for the wedding, and mamma took some out for the church and for you, because to-day is Candlemas."

"I hope she has not robbed the bride?"

"Oh, no, Mary was so pleased to have them come."

The clock struck nine, and the girls scattered to their places. Miss Brainard read the Collect for the day:

"Almighty and Everlasting God, we humbly beseech Thy Majesty that as Thy only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto Thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The girls read the Epistle and Gospel, each taking a sentence, and then took up paper and pencil, seeing Miss Brainard open her well-worn copy of "Keble's Outlines." She dictated it slowly and gravely, and the children evidently thought about what they set down, which was:

"There are two ideas connected with this festival inseparably joined together; the idea of *presentation*, suggested by the presentation

of Christ for us; the idea of *purification*, suggested by the purification of the blessed Virgin, and mother of Him who knew no sin. Consider the various presentations to the Father, and how purification belongs to each; the presentations looking forward of the first-born in the Jewish rites of Samuel, and Samson, and such as they. The presentation to-day of the Eternal Son, whom all types prefigured; His continual presentation to us in all Church offices, in Holy baptism, and in Confirmation, in Ordination, in Dedications and Benedictions, and vows, in daily prayers, but most in the Holy Communion; on earth, by His priests from time to time, in heaven, completely. Last of all, at the great day, when He shall present His Bride to the Father."

Miss Brainard closed her book, the girls pushed away pencils and paper and sat waiting. At last she spoke, but slowly:

"The pure-hearted mother presented the Holy Child before the Lord, and she also presented to Simeon and Anna, her Master and theirs.

"The day falls fitly in Epiphany season, commemorating, as it does, one of the early manifestations of our Lord. The outline you have written down dwells on our purification, and our Lord's presentation of us to the Father; but I want to speak to you this morning on the presentation from another point of view. How ought, how does, the Christian woman present her Lord and Master to the world? which is for her, of course, the community in which she lives, the people with whom she has to do; a Christian community, people who, like herself, are trying to do their duty as they understand it. You see, I am not talking now of missionary or charitable work, but of the *daily duties* of us all.

"She will best set forth her Lord, consciously or unconsciously, she who has *most faith* in Him. Others may show forth much of His truth, but can it be possible for a man or a woman to really believe that Jesus Christ was born into the world 1900 years ago, lived here for thirty-three years, died, rose again, ascended into Heaven, and be just as others. Surely not; there may be those who think they believe their Creed—open Bible. Church services, religious art have unconsciously made it to them a beautiful story, and little more; but if the Incarnation is to be to them the key of life, and well spring of faith, and hope, and