

This leads us to see another meaning in the words "seek first." We have learned that first means in value—most important; let us not forget what it means in matter of time—before anything else. Jesus taught us to seek the kingdom of God above everything else in point of value, and before everything else in point of time. He means us to do it now. If we have not, let us decide to-day to love and serve God all our lives. The best day in the life of any boy or girl is when decision is made to

We rejoice that so much is being done for the alleviation of suffering in our hospitals there. Our representatives are doing a great work as God's messengers, spreading the Glad Tidings of Joy among the people.

China's gates are open wide. The people inside await our coming, or someone whom we shall send. Will we go? How may we keep the gate open that the King of Glory may enter in.—C. G. W.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O YE GATES.

O world of pride
Throw open wide
Your golden gates of splendor!
And let the Holy Christ come in
To triumph over death and sin;
O Kings, your homage render.

O world of woe
Wide open throw
Your iron gates of terror!
And let the Consolation in
To triumph over death and sin
And free from bonds of error.

O labour's sons
Ye toiling ones,
"Throw wide your brazen portal!"
And let Him in—the Son of Man—
Your toll to own, your work to scan,
And bless with joys immortal!

O gates of doom
Make room, make room
For Christ, the King of Glory!
He shall the world's wide gates possess,
He shall come in to judge—to bless—
And end earth's bitter story.

—C. Theatrics.

A DAUGHTER OF CHINA.

She was not born where English skies
Span emerald meadows, cool and fair;
Warm Eastern breezes fanned her cheek,
And played amidst her dusky hair.

No Sabbath bells with music sweet,
E'er called her to the house of prayer;
For heathen temples filled the land,
And idol shrines were everywhere.

Long, long it seemed since filled with gloom,
She danced beneath the bamboo's green;
Bound fast with torturing bands of pain,
Her shapely feet no more are seen.

And life has grown one weary pain,
Through noontide as through midnight hours;
She often craves for death's long sleep,
This child who played amidst the flowers.

She dropped, and, in her dying hour,
The strange weird shapes of fear and dread,
Which throng the temples of her land—
These, only these, stood round her bed

To that far-distant Chinese town
No joyful news had ever come
Of Jesus, Whose redeeming love
Makes dying only going Home.

She passed away, and millions more
Die thus within that distant land!
We have the Light to cheer their way,
The Bread of Life is in our hand.

Oh, hasten ere life's day decline,
Shed light in China's darkened homes;
For tenderness, and faith, and love,
Fill every heart when Jesus comes.

—Mrs. Bryson.

MARCH 1.—THE BOY MAKES THE MAN.—2 Tim. 3: 14-17.

Note.—St. Paul wrote two Epistles (letters) to Timothy, that have been preserved to us, and are now part of the Bible. From these and other books in the New Testament we learn a number of things about Timothy. It will be well to arrange a number of passages in order, so that together they may give some general idea of Timothy's life. To do this by consulting a concordance will be good exercise for the Superintendent, and we advise each to do it for the League meeting, rather than to follow strictly the outline following, which is given simply to illustrate our meaning.

SOME FACTS WE KNOW ABOUT TIMOTHY.

About his home (Acts 16: 1), his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1: 5), his early education (2 Tim. 3: 15), his reputation (Acts 16: 2), his work with St. Paul (Philippians 2: 19-22), etc.

SOME ADVICE ST. PAUL GAVE TIMOTHY.

About diligence (1 Tim. 4: 14, 15, 16), about the way to live (1 Tim. 2: 10, 11, 12), about being steadfast (2 Tim. 2: 1, 3), about study (2 Tim. 2: 15), about purity (2 Tim. 2: 22), about influence (1 Tim. 4: 12), etc.

THE TOPIC PROPER.

2 Tim. 3: 14-17.—Notice, first, how Paul reminds Timothy of the past. He recalls his early childhood and home training. Notice, second, the force of the word "continue." That shows him his present duty. Notice, third, the aim Paul has for Timothy, the man as indicated in verse 17. That pictures the future.

FACTS ABOUT BOYS.

1. They are not boys long. They soon grow into men.
2. The best place for a boy to get a good start is at home.
3. Every boy will grow into either a good or a bad man.
4. Without a knowledge of the Scriptures no boy can become a really wise man.
5. We need boys to become men who shall be both good and useful in the world.
6. A boy may have faith in Christ as Saviour and become "wise unto salvation," even before he is a grown man.
7. No boy is really fitted for life without the Bible in his head to guide him aright, and the grace and love of God in his heart to help him do what he knows.
8. What is true of boys and men is equally true of girls and women; therefore the Methodist Church should try to give all the boys and girls at least three things as a good start to a useful life, viz.:
 - (1) Intelligent knowledge of the Scriptures.
 - (2) Personal acquaintance with the Saviour.
 - (3) Practical training for service.

Only so can we grow men and women who shall know, and be, and do what God wants them to.

With the foregoing points to work on, we trust the Superintendent will be able to guide the thought and outline the treatment for the leader so that many helpful lessons of life may be learned in the meeting.

MARCH 8.—MANLY BOYS AND WOMANLY GIRLS.—1 Cor. 13: Prov. 33: 26.

In the January number of this paper there were given a number of counsels

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

To the Superintendent: If you can obtain a copy of Henry Drummond's address "First"—a talk with boys—and either read it, or have three of your most reliable juniors read from it in meeting. Under the three heads, "Geography," "Arithmetic," and "Grammar," he presents (as the writer well remembers the essay), in most attractive and impressive manner, the lessons of Matt. 6: 33.—Your pastor will likely have the book, or it may be—certainly it should be—in your S. S. Library.

FEB. 22.—CHINA'S GATES OPEN: THE PEOPLE INSIDE.—Psa. 19: 7-14.

With this topic we begin the first of three studies on China.

Upon the blackboard make a drawing of the great wall of China with a gateway, using it as a symbol of China's exclusiveness. Explain why the wall was built. In the development of the theme if the following is placed on the blackboard it will be helpful:—

A Wall impeding showing God's Patience.
A Gate inserted " " Preparation.
A Highway inviting " " Purpose.

What is inside the wall? Between three and four millions of people. A gate was opened in 1842, when at the close of the first Opium War five ports were accessible to foreign residents, viz., Canton, Amoy, Fuh-chow, Ningpo and Shanghai. Point out each of these on the map. Three years afterwards missionary work commenced. Tell how some worked as translators, doctors, teachers, or in business. Supplementary information may readily be found by referring to "The Uplift of China," "The Heart of Szechwan," "Our Share in China" and "Talks on China." In 1860 another gate was opened, and yet another in 1876. See Isa. 49: 11, 12.

The cry is loud from China to-day, and the opportunity great. Impress upon the Juniors some of the practical ways of service in our relation to China's need.

The two recitations herein given may be used with good effect, memorized and given by the Juniors in the meeting.

Poor,
Broken-hearted,
The People Inside Captives,
Blind,
Bruised.

Acute poverty exists in China. Many of the people receive miserably small wages. There are times of famine, disease or other distress. There are captives because of the excessive use of opium. Because of this and other troubles many are broken-hearted. There are the blind and the bruised. Letters from our missionaries, as published in *The Bulletin* and other church papers, tell us of the horrors of famine, of gambling with all its evils, of slavery through opium, and our hearts have many times been stirred as we wondered what men could do to help our dear Chinese girls in the crusade against foot-binding.