

Junior Department

Conducted by REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Napaine, 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.

Keep Hoeing and Praying.

"Faith without works is dead,"
 Said Farmer Jones, in a whining tone,
 To his good old neighbor Gray,
 "I've worn my knees through to the
 bone,
 But it ain't no use to pray.

"I've prayed to the Lord a thousand
 times
 For to make that 'ere corn grow;
 And why your'n beats it so and climbs
 I'd give a deal to know."

Said Farmer Gray to his neighbor Jones,
 In his easy, quiet way:
 "When prayers get mixed with lazy
 bones,
 They don't make farmin' pay.

"Your weeds, I notice, are good an' tall,
 In spite of all your prayers;
 You may pray for corn till the heavens
 fall
 If you don't dig up the tares.

"I mix my prayers with a little toil
 Along in every row;
 An' I work this mixture into the soil
 Quite vigorous with a hoe.

"So, while I'm praying, I use my hoe
 And do my level best
 To keep down the weeds along each
 row,
 An' the Lord he does the rest.

"It's well for to pray, both night an'
 morn,
 As every farmer knows,
 But the place to pray for thrifty corn
 Is right between the rows.

"You must use your hands while pray-
 ing, though,
 If an answer you would get,
 For prayer-worn knees, an' a rusty hoe,
 Never raised a big crop yet.

"An' so I believe, my good old friend,
 If you mean to win the day,
 From ploughing clean to the harvest's
 end,
 You must hoe as well as pray."
 —The Lutheran World.

Memory Facts in Life of Christ.

HOME STUDIES.

For Nos. 1 to 35 see April ERA.

36. Tenth miracle—Centurion's servant. Lu. 7. 1-10.
37. Tenth miracle—Raising the widow's son. Lu. 7. 11-17.
38. John the Baptist's last message to Christ. Lu. 7. 18-35.
39. The alabaster box. Jesus anointed. Lu. 7. 36-50.
40. The sin against the Holy Ghost. Lu. 11. 14-35.
41. Christ's true kindred. Lu. 8. 19-21.
42. Parables by the sea. Lu. 8. 4-18.
43. Eleventh miracle—Stilling the tempest. Lu. 8. 22-25.
44. Twelfth miracle—The Gaderene Demoniaes. Lu. 8. 26-39.
45. Thirteenth miracle—The poor sick woman. Lu. 8. 41-56.

46. Fourteenth miracle—Raising Jairus' daughter. Lu. 8. 41-48.

If you have learned, in order, all the memory facts in previous Eras, add these to your list. Write them out in order, by number, from memory and mail to Mr. Bartlett. State your name, age, and P.O. address. Your lists will all be corrected and returned to you in due time.

Weekly Topics.

May 15th.—"The Epworth League and Temperance." Esther 4. 14.

The story of Esther may be thus briefly told. Esther was a beautiful Jewish maiden, an orphan, brought up by her cousin Mordecai, who held an office in the palace of the King of Persia, at Shushan. When Vashti had been dismissed from being queen, all the fairest virgins were gathered together, and from among them Esther was chosen to be queen. The king did not know of her race or parentage; and so when the cruel Haman asked for it, the king gave him authority and power to "kill all the Jews and to take possession of their property. The Queen Esther heard of this wicked decree and was sad because of it. The means she took to save her people and the success that followed, are all told in the Book of Esther. As she was the saviour of her people from cruel death, she became forever especially honored among the Jews. If the story of Esther is clearly known, it will be easy to use it to represent the Topic of to-day, e.g. as the decree of Haman, so that of the modern Liquor Traffic, has gone forth. It means loss of property and life to thousands. . . . Read Esther 3. 9. Does it not sound like the proposal of the liquor traffic of to-day, to pay for the privilege of doing its deadly work, by enriching the king's treasury? Haman proposed to pay into the coffers of the king a large sum of money. So does the Liquor Traffic. About \$7,000,000 a year is given in revenue to Canada for what is not really as of old, "to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish," all its poor deluded victims? Many people say that the business "pays." How can we count the losses? When we begin to think of the awful ravages of strong drink, we are unable to count the cost. (Read Esther 3. 6-17.) Was it any wonder that the queen could not "endure to see the evil?" Can we look on and not care? Yet, notwithstanding the cruel power of the common foe, we may stay its hand and redeem our people. Then (as in Esther 3. 16-17) there will be "gladness and joy, and honor." There was only one way to prevent Haman's cruelty. That was by the king's command, "Thou shalt not." Prohibition means this to the Liquor Haman. Only by a royal decree (Act of Parliament, we would say to-day) can the evil be made unlawful. How can the Epworth League help? (1) By every member becoming a pledged Teetotaler. (2) By educating other boys and girls to hate strong drink in every form. (3) By banding together to work for prohibition. (4) By seeking to get as many votes as possible for every Act that is intended to lessen or destroy the evils of the drink traffic. There is but little hope of a total prohibitory law unless the young men voters combine to break the deplorable partizanship of the majority of their elders. In view of this, let the Junior League Superintendent teach every growing boy, the righteous necessity of not only praying, but of voting "for God and home, and native land." For God, Sunday-school, and Young People's Society in Canada, should be a school for the education of coming voters in the sacred responsibility of the ballot.

May 22.—"Our King." 1 Tim. 2. 1, 2; 1 Pet. 2. 17; Ps. 21. 1; Prov. 20. 28; 24. 21.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Father of men, whose sovereign might
 Controls all worlds, who bowest down
 To earth's regard from heaven's height,
 Give with Thine hand anew the crown.

Grant Thou the gifts that rule,—the
 powers
 Of spirit that are panoply;
 High faith that benediction showers,—
 Strength equal to all agony,—

Large thought, that slumbers like the sea
 With depths that bare when great winds
 blow;
 The speech made wise by sympathy,—
 The will that sees yet stoops to know;—

'Fulness of life, proportioned days;—
 The crown of deeds, the harvest lands
 Of righteousness where plenty waxes,
 And one sole law of peace commands.

O Thou whose are the Kingdoms, break
 The curse of evil; through our tears
 and struggles, for Thy Son's dear sake,
 Lead onward to the perfect years.
 —W. Stevens, in Sunday at Home.

On May 24th, 1819, at Old Kensington Palace, Queen Victoria was born. On the 19th of June, 1837, William IV. died, and she became Great Britain's Queen. Her coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on June 28th, 1838. On February 10th, 1840 the Queen was married to Prince Albert, who died on December 14th, 1861. Our reigning King, Edward VII., was the second child of Queen Victoria, and was born November 9th, 1841. "The twenty-fourth of May" for over sixty years, "kept" as the Queen's birthday, is so closely associated with the memories of our sovereign that it is still observed as "the King's birthday." Even our Juniors can recall the sadness of the opening weeks of January, 1900, when the Queen lay dying, and the general mourning over her death. Then followed the accession of her son, our present King, of whom we are all proud, and for whom we all pray.

"GOD SAVE THE KING."

Some of the principal dates connected with the King should be firmly fixed in the minds of our youth. See, therefore, that this meeting does not close without their knowing at least the few given above. The doctrine of our Scripture texts is that we should honor the King, and pray for him, and that his throne may be established in truth and righteousness, and his reign be characterized by mercy and peace, as well as temporal prosperity and world-wide power. Let our Juniors learn that God is supreme, that His favor is essential to national blessing, that, as of old, our earthly king and all his subjects must seek God and obey His laws, if we would be truly great. True greatness is not found in worldly position or great political power alone. When the King's heart is filled with love to God and obedience to Him as the One Universal and Eternal Sovereign, the nation may rejoice. Good kings have not always reigned. There have been ungodly rulers and under them unrighteousness has increased. We may well be thankful for a good (godly) king, and should pray not only that God may save his life for many years; but that he may rule with the fear of the Lord before his eyes continually, and that the nation may ever remember that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."