

THAT WONDERFUL LIFE.

Dear Young People,
Juniors and Seniors:—

For the six months past we have been studying the wonderful human life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, from its wonderful beginning at Bethlehem with the angels' song of "Peace," to its wonderful closing in the resurrection and ascension. If thinking of grand and beautiful things makes grand and beautiful characters, then the boys and girls in the Presbyterian Church in Canada should be a good deal more beautiful in character than they were six months ago. They should be more pure in thought and speech for they have been studying a life that was pure above all others, that knew only good. They should be more unselfish, and ready to sacrifice for others for Christ gave his whole life to do men good, and at length laid down that life in death as an atonement for our sins.

"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

How much have the lessons of the past six months done in shaping young Canada? How much have they done in shaping "me," and "me," and "me"?

A WARNING.

If the study of that wonderful, beautiful, life for the past six months has not made us more like to itself, if we are none the better for it, what then?

First, we are responsible for what we might have been, and have more to answer for. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

Second, we are more hardened. We have got used to looking at, and thinking about, the best thing in the world, without its making any impression upon us, and therefore there is less likelihood that it will ever affect us.

PAST AND FUTURE.

The lessons for the past six months showed us one grand, beautiful, sinless life, and a good many bad lives; some of them very bad; so bad that they so hated the good that they could not allow it to live but must put it to death.

The lessons for the next three months show us God, patient and good, and some good people who are his servants; and they show us also a great many bad people, some of them specially bad, just as were some of the people in the last six months' lessons.

There, Pilate, weak and selfish, urged on by the priests and scribes, put Christ to death; here, Ahab, weak and selfish, urged on by the wicked Jezebel, does what he can to kill righteousness out of God's land.

Another thing, sad to say, not unusual, is that during all these years, God was trying to win them to himself and to righteousness, both by persuasion and by punishment; yet they would not attend to either the one or the other, and at length he gave them over to complete destruction for their sins.

God is the same to-day, and he pleads and warns, but if men will not listen and obey they too must be cast out forever from life and hope; and one reason why such stories as these are given us, is that we may take warning by them, and turn from sin to God, before it be too late.

OTHER LANDS LIKE ISRAEL.

The one thing that looms largest in the lessons of the quarter is the sin of idolatry. It ruined the kingdom of Israel. Remember the sad fact that idolatry is not a thing of the past; that more than half the world is worshipping idols to-day, with all the wrong and degradation that idol worship brings with it. These lands are sinking deeper into sin and misery. The only remedy for them is the Gospel. That Gospel is entrusted to our care to give to them. Christ commanded that it should be preached to every creature.

As we study the lessons we may think that if we had opportunity we would have rescued Israel from ruin. There are in the world to-day many times more than there ever were of Israel, whom we can help to rescue. Some of us may be prophets as Elijah and Elisha were, missionaries, to call the world from sin to righteousness, from idolatry to the true God; and though we cannot all be such we can all help to send others who go. Remember that there are many other lands, like Israel, drifting downwards to ruin, and it is our privilege to be helpers in saving them.