



Junior Department.

Forward, Junior Leaguers!

[The following is a composite production by the three superintendents of the Junior League of Parliament Street Church, Toronto.]

We are Junior Leaguers,
Girded for the fray,
And through Christ our Saviour,
We will win the day.
We will still press forward,
Bravely on our way,
And with strength from Jesus,
Watch and work and pray.

CHORUS:

Forward, Junior Leaguers!
Loyal, firm, and true,
Jesus is our Captain,—
He will lead us through.

By the pledge we've taken,
We have promised true,
That with strength from Jesus,
We His will will do,—
We His Word will study,
And pray every day;
And to be true Christians,
We will try always.—(Ch.)

Onward we are marching,
In the narrow way,
Jesus our great Leader,
Is with us every day.
Jesus, help us ever,
In our work and pray,
To stand firm for Thy dear cause,—
For others live and pray.—(Ch.)

To the front of battle,
Forward then we go,
And through our dear Master,
Victory we'll know.
We are not confounded,
Christ our banner will hold,
And through dangers lead us,
Till we reach the fold.—(Ch.)

Ten Years of Junior Work.

BY REV. T. ALBERT MOORE.

From the very beginning Methodism has devoted herself to the teaching and training of the children that came under her care. In 1787 the Conference directed that the children be formed into classes, with a view to their graduation into the Church, while the Sunday School was officially recognized in the Minutes of 1790. The classes were to develop personal piety; the Sunday School was to teach the Scriptures. By these two methods has the Methodist Church ever sought to instruct the young.

Ten years ago, when the Epworth League was organized, besides the classes and the schools, there were many other societies for the children in various churches, such as Bands, Clubs, Busy Bess, Try Companies, and others, thus showing that the Church had fully aroused itself to the importance of work among children. And when, from various other young people's societies, the Epworth League was organized, provision was at once made for a Junior society. I am unable to state where and when the first Junior society was organized in Canadian Methodism, but it was very early in the history of the young people's movement. I believe that the Junior societies in First Church, Hamilton, and at Niagara Falls, were among the very first, if not the first, organized in our churches. Some of these early societies were strictly the children of the great Christian Endeavor Society, but

others were as distinctly Epworth Leagues. Very soon, however—in fact, long before the senior societies had ceased to trouble themselves—did these junior societies forget to demand the "shibboleth" of either name, but gave their time and energies to the work of Jesus Christ.

The first official recognition of junior work was by our General Conference of 1890, when that body gave formal endorsement of the Epworth League, and incorporated it as part of the religious economy of the Church, and the Junior League was placed in the "department of Religious work." A few societies were then organized, but the work received a great impetus at the Convention of the Methodist Young People's Societies of Ontario, held in Broadway Tabernacle, Toronto, February 27th to March 1st, 1893. Here Miss A. E. Henry, of Hamilton, read an excellent paper on the topic, "Junior Work." Such an impression was made upon the Convention, that it was decided that "a new officer be appointed, who shall be the Superintendent of Junior Work." The Secretary, in his official report in *The Christian Guardian* of that date, said, "Let me draw your attention to the creation of a new office, that of Superintendent of Junior Work, filled by the appointment of Rev. T. Albert Moore." It was the intention of the executive to push this work, and Brother Moore will be glad to hear from anyone in the matter." Miss Marion Kelly, Hamilton, was the Assistant Superintendent.

Among those who were deeply interested in this department of our young people's work, and gave much assistance, were Rev. A. Garman, D.D., Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., and Rev. A. M. Phillips, B.D. With their co-operation a constitution was provided, and Junior Leagues were organized in many of our churches both in town and country. To the General Conference of 1894, Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., reported that 145 were organized, chiefly in Ontario. He adds, "These Junior Leagues are designed to interest the younger scholars in the schools directly in Christian work, and for the promotion of personal piety. Much good has been accomplished by these Junior Leagues, which give promise of valuable aid in training the boys and girls in our schools in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The same General Conference ordered that the constitution prepared during the previous quadrennium be approved, and it was published in the Discipline. Thus was the Junior League fully received into the Church, and given its place among the excellent organizations which have ever sought to further the work of the Master among us. And it may be worthy of notice that the constitution, so carefully prepared at that time, remains unchanged, and is still the law of our Junior societies.

In 1895, when the Methodist Young People's Societies of Ontario were merged into Conference organizations, it was found that Junior societies had multiplied, and in each Conference there was appointed a President for Junior work. These officers were: Toronto Conference, Mr. Hudson, Toronto; Hamilton Conference, Miss M. Kelly, Hamilton; London Conference, Miss Learoyd, Sarnia; Bay of Quinte Conference, Miss L. Kennedy, Peterboro'; and Montreal Conference, Rev. G. S. Clendinning, Billing's Bridge. At the next meeting of the Sunday School and Epworth League Boards, that body also elected a vice-president of Junior work in the person of Rev. T. Albert Moore. Under the oversight of these workers, and their successors from year to year, Junior work has continued to increase, every annual report telling of growth and expansion. Every convention—international, conference, or district—has given hearty consideration to this work, and the delegates have returned from them with enthusiastic purpose to organize the younger young people into Junior Leagues to enable them the more clearly to know their privilege, as

well as to instruct them in the very best methods of doing work for Jesus Christ.

Besides those already named as being earnest workers for the Junior League, I must mention two others—our General Secretary, Rev. A. C. Crews, who everywhere has emphasized the utility of Junior work; and also Rev. S. T. Bartlett, of Bay of Quinte Conference, who has perhaps given more time and more effort to this department than any other person. His "Junior League Hand Book" is a mine of information for every worker, and ought to be in the hands of every junior superintendent, as well as in the library of every minister.

With all these, and many other workers, it is not strange that our Junior League has prospered. It goes everywhere with the senior society, and is ever carrying on a splendid work, by training our boys and girls in the work of the Master, so that the coming generation will already know how to work and bear their burdens when the dawning twentieth century will have opened its doors to them, and flung upon them its larger responsibilities.

"Tis ours to fashion the children's minds,
To kindle their thoughts, and their hopes
unblind;

To guide their young feet in their earliest
flight;

And lead them to worlds of unshuffled light;
To teach them to sing in their gladsome hours
Of a Saviour's love, with an angel's powers."

Hamilton, 12th April, 1890.

Sunshine.

The Parliament Street Junior League, Toronto, has no special Sunshine Committee, but has resolved itself into a "Sunshine Committee of the Whole" with the object of bringing the light of the Sun of Righteousness into the hearts of those about them. With this end in view they usually spend about an hour on Sunday afternoons, after Sunday School, in visiting the old, infirm, and sick people in their neighborhood. They sing, read the Bible, and pray, and in this way have brought many rays of sunshine into the lives of some who know but little else than suffering.

Burlington Juniors.

The Junior League is under the able management of Miss Hagar, and has a membership of forty-two, with an average attendance of twenty-five. They have met regularly every week, the children taking charge of the meeting and topics, and doing cheerfully whatever work was assigned to them. At Christmas time over thirty homes were cheered by the gifts of their children had made themselves—dolls, scrap-books, work-boxes, etc. They have made two quilts, one of which has been sent to the Hospital for Sick Children, of Toronto. The Juniors are self-supporting, free of debt, and have \$1.13 in their treasury.

Mountain Grove Juniors.

Master Percy Abbott, secretary of the Mountain Grove Junior League, sends the following account of their work: "During the past year we have held two public meetings, one in May and one in November. We decorated the church for Christmas. This winter the Juniors gathered up some goods and filled a box to send to a poor family. We try to write letters to sick members of our League and send them flowers, if we can.

We have had eight new members join our League during the past year, and also three members joined the church on probation. We have also had two concerts and we raised \$6.40 at one and \$1.60 at the other. We gave \$6.40 towards the new parsonage and we also bought a bell for the front door. We have collected about nine hundred