

In a famous picture gallery in London, there is a picture of the crucifixion, and underneath it are written the words, "Who for the joy that was set before Him." Where was the joy? The Junior who can answer that question knows what self-denial is.

To indulge in anything suggested by Satan is to deny Christ altogether. The punishment of self-indulgence is more of self; the reward of self-denial is more of Christ.

Do not let this meeting pass over without mentioning the subject of Temperance. Try to have every Junior sign the pledge. Impress upon them their duty to the next generation. If the next generation of people are to be better and nobler, then we must be able to give to them sound bodies and minds and strong wills.

It is said by some man who has been making investigations recently, that only forty per cent. of the drunkards are such because their parents were drunkards also; twenty per cent. inherit it from their grandparents; twenty per cent. are drunkards because of some disease inherited from parents, which causes weakness that craves a stimulant. Only twenty per cent. of all the drunkards are victims of drink on account of some defect in themselves for which their ancestors are not accountable. It is also said that for every one dollar of revenue which the government derives from the liquor traffic, there has to be an amount equal to nearly twenty dollars paid out for the maintenance of asylums, prisons, poor-houses, or other places of refuge. Which is the cheaper plan? Impress upon the Juniors the responsibility for which they must now be preparing themselves.



Kindness to Animals.

Sept. 11.—Kindness to animals: why? how? Gen. 24: 15: 17-28.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: Man's dominion, Ps. 8: 4-9. Tuesday: Kindness commanded, Deut. 25: 4. Wednesday: Righteousness and kindness, Prov. 12: 10. Thursday: Noah and the dove, Gen. 8: 6-12. Friday: Elijah and the ravens, 1 Kings 17: 5, 6. Saturday: God's care for the birds, Matt. 6: 26.

If you have not a Band of Mercy organized in connection with your Junior society, this meeting will give you a good opportunity for forming one. By inquiry, all information can readily be forwarded. These societies often work great reforms in the habits of our boys and girls. It is thoughtlessness in most cases, rather than genuine cruelty, which makes so many of our young people unkind to animals.

Call the attention of the Juniors to some of the common cruelties. Many of them have kittens in their possession, yet, when going away on a holiday, only a few remember to make provision for the kitten, who must either starve, while they are away for pleasure, or else venture forth on the streets in search of food, and be worried by savage dogs or more savage boys.

How often do we forget the wants of the pet canary or rabbit, who suffers thirst and often hunger, until we are reminded of the duty left undone.

Ask the Juniors to bring anecdotes or examples in their own experiences of animals who have been the true and faithful friends of their masters. God meant people to be kind to animals, for He Himself gave the ancient Jews a command enjoining kindness.



Solomon.

Sept. 18.—Lessons from the life of Solomon. 1 Kings 3: 5-15.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: His anointing, 1 Kings 1: 33-40. Tuesday: His temple-building, 1 Kings 8: 12, 13, 9: 2, 3. Wednesday: His wealth, 1 Kings 10: 21-23. Thursday: His wisdom, 1 Kings 4: 29-34. Friday: His fame, 1 Kings 10: 6, 7, 24. Saturday: His disobedience, 1 Kings 11: 4-6.

The first lesson we learn from the life of Solomon is that official position never gives solace to the soul. There have been very happy people in high positions, such as Wilberforce, Prince Albert, or the man for whom English people are now mourning, Hon. W. E. Gladstone; but the joy did not come from their elevated positions, but from the God whom they tried to serve. King Solomon held his throne for thirty-five years, yet was not happy.

Second lesson: Learning does not satisfy people. Solomon was a great literary man. He wrote three thousand proverbs and one thousand songs; he wrote about plants, birds, and beasts; yet none of these things, nor the glory he won by writing them, satisfied him.

Third lesson: Worldly wealth does not bring true happiness. The more money a man has the better, provided he gets it honestly and uses it lawfully. Solomon was much more than a millionaire. He had gold to the value of six hundred and eighty million pounds, and silver to the value of over a billion pounds. The Queen of Sheba gave him a present of seven hundred and twenty thousand pounds. If he had lost the value of an immense fortune, he need not have wasted a thought on it, and yet he writes, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

Fourth Lesson: There is no happiness in a life of self-indulgence. Solomon waved a sceptre over others, but there was a tyrant in his own soul which mastered him.

"Substantial comfort will not grow

In nature's barren soil;

All we can boast, till Christ we know,
Is vanity and toil.

But where the Lord has planted grace,
And made His glories known:
There fruits of heavenly joy and peace
Are found, and there alone."



Better Work.

Sept. 25.—How can we better our society work? Rev. 3: 7, 8, 14-22.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: More love, John 13: 34. Tuesday: More loyalty, Luke 14: 27. Wednesday: More prayer, Col. 4: 2. Thursday: More testimony, Ps. 145: 11. Friday: More Christ-likeness, 1 John 2: 6. Saturday: More fruit, Luke 13: 6-9.

First see that it needs bettering. Never be perfectly satisfied with the work; that leads to self-complacency.

The Lookout Committee's work is never done until everyone is in the society whom God would like to have in, and when everyone in the society is faithful to his duty.

The Prayer Meeting Committee's work is done when every member takes some part in the meeting as best he can.

The Social Committee's work is done when every member is trying to find out the good in others and little ways of being helpful to others.

The Missionary Committee's work is done only when every member is interested in missions, not only with brain, but with heart and purse.

The Junior society's work is done when every member tries to do "whatever Christ would like to have him do," and is ready to do it again and again.

There is one question which every Junior should ask himself, not, "Will others think I am keeping the pledge?" but, "Will Christ think I am keeping it?"