

## Junior Department

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

### Love's Key

Just to be tender,  
Just to be true,  
Just to be glad the whole day through.  
Just to be merciful,  
Just to be mild,  
Just to be trustful as a child,  
Just to let love be our daily key,  
This is God's will for you and me.

Just to be gentle and kind and sweet,  
Just to be helpful with willing feet;  
Just to be cheery when things go wrong,  
Just to drive sadness away with a song,  
Just to let love be our daily key,  
This is God's will for you and me.

Whether the hour be dark or bright  
Just to be loyal to God and right,  
Ever to stand temptation's test,  
Just in His promises to rest,  
Just to let love be our daily key,  
This is God's will for you and me.

### Memory Facts in the Life of Christ

#### HOME READINGS.

87. The blind men near Jericho. Mark 10. 46-52.  
88. Conversion of Zacchaeus. Luke 19. 1-10.  
89. Anointing at Bethany by Mary. Mark 14. 3-9.  
90. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Mark 11. 1-11.  
91. Second cleansing of the Temple. Mark 11. 15-19.  
92. The widow's two mites. Mark 12. 41-44.  
93. Greeks seeking Jesus. John 12. 20-36.  
94. Last discourses. Matt. chaps. 24, 25.  
95. Plot between Judas and the Priests. Luke 22. 1-6.  
96. The Last Supper. Matt. 26. 17-35.  
Too much cannot be said in praise of the work done by Lorne and Gladys Keeling, of Cargill, Ont., in following up these studies all through the past year. They have been diligent and regular in their preparation, and Mr. Bartlett esteems it a pleasure to thus congratulate them. They will be suitably "booked" by Dr. Crews in due time. Quite a lot of our Juniors started with these studies, some kept them up for months; but only the two named above have answered all to date. They are good students.

### Weekly Topics

- Feb. 19.—The story of a covenant. Ex. 24. 1-8; Ps. 105. 8-10.

#### HOME READINGS.

- Mon., Feb. 13.—The angel guide. Ex. 23. 20, 21.  
Tues., Feb. 14.—God's promise. Ex. 23. 22, 23.  
Wed., Feb. 15.—God's command. Ex. 23. 24.  
Thur., Feb. 16.—More promises. Ex. 23. 25-31.  
Fri., Feb. 17.—Wrong covenants. Ex. 23. 32, 33.  
Sat., Feb. 18.—Our League Covenant. 2 Chron. 15. 12.  
Sun., Feb. 19.—Topic. The story of a covenant. Lessons as above.

(This week's meeting should be devoted to the Pledge. A thorough study of it should be made with the Juniors. Suggestive material may be found in the Junior League Handbook. Look it up and prepare for a good meeting.)

A covenant is simply an agreement made between parties who promise each other that they will be true to one another. God had made "an everlasting covenant" with his people. That is, he had said, "I will never break my covenant (promise) with you" (Judges 2. 1).

The people had covenanted (promised) together with God that they would be obedient" (Ex. 24. 7). How God kept his promises may be seen by the words of Joshua in Joshua 23. 14: "... not one thing hath failed thereof." But the record of the people's failures is often read. They did not always prove true to their promise. Do we? Are we better to-day than they were so long ago? They ought to have done better. We ought to do better. But that word "ought" does not take first place in our minds. Why? That is the great problem of your meeting to-day. Why do not boys and girls, men and women, always perform their vows? There are many reasons, and they will be readily suggested by the members if you help them a little, e.g.: (1) Thoughtlessness. Sometimes young people are too quick to make a promise. They do not fully realize how sacred and important a thing it is to say, "I will." The careful Superintendent will not discourage any from becoming members; but will be careful that all who do, have been taught the claims and terms of the Pledge. And it is very desirable that the dual signature to the pledge card (the parent's as well as the child's) be obtained. (2) Indifference. Many grow careless in the course of time, and the claims of present obedience are not felt as they were when the covenant was fresh and new. But it is a perpetual covenant, to be renewed every day and observed one day at a time. If this is borne in mind, each day's duties will be performed regularly, and the mind be kept full of the importance of doing "all that the Lord hath said." (3) Compromise. Too often this spirit prevails. We do not want to do everything, and that soon means that we do nothing. We cannot pick and choose. "Whatever he would like to have me do," is the condition we have accepted, and we must not do only the easy things and leave the hard ones undone. That was what the Israelites too often did. They said, "We cannot." Don't we also? But it really means, "We will not." For we must not forget what Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me." We are so often, "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength." (4) Procrastination. We all know what it is to "put off." To-morrow never comes. It is always to-day, and if we fail to do to-day what belongs to it, we will likely keep putting off, and the work never be done. To-day's duties are never made easier by putting off. The rewards of keeping this covenant are many; but we should not look only for these. We should act truly because we are true. We should not obey God just to get to heaven by and by; but to enjoy life and its blessings here and now. There is no real joy outside of obedience, and our obedience is the proof of our love to Christ. (John 14. 15; 15. 14.) Make it clear in concluding your study that it is easy to obey only when we love. If we truly love Christ we will delight to do his will; but if we are trying to do something out of fear it will be hard and joyless. (Tell how a little girl love to Christ. She was seen, answered a questioner. She was seen struggling along through the mud carrying a child. The girl had about all she could do to manage her load. A lady passing her, said, "He must be very heavy for you to carry. Isn't he?" Oh, no!" replied the girl, "he's my brother. Oh, Her love for her baby brother made his weight light to her even though he was really all she could carry.") The love of Christ constraineth me," we all should be able to say.

- Feb. 26.—A story of a golden calf. Ex. 32. 1-6, 15-20.

#### HOME READINGS.

- Mon., Feb. 20.—Aaron's sin. Ex. 32. 1-6.  
Tues., Feb. 21.—As God saw it. Ex. 32. 7-10.  
Wed., Feb. 22.—The prayer of Moses. Ex. 32. 11-14.  
Thur., Feb. 23.—Moses and the golden calf. Ex. 32. 15-20.  
Fri., Feb. 24.—Aaron's excuse. Ex. 32. 21-24.  
Sat., Feb. 25.—The punishment. Ex. 32. 25-35.  
Sun., Feb. 26.—Topic. A story of a golden calf. Lesson as above.

This topic is a striking illustration of the failure of the people to remember their promise made to God, as we saw in last week's study. When Moses was away from them they soon grew different. How easy it is to forget. But the trouble is that though they forgot God they did not remain without gods. Explain to your Juniors that it is not a choice between the true God and an only God; and no god; but between the true and the false. We all have our gods; but many do not worship and serve the true God. Something takes the place of our Heavenly Father in our affections and service if we forget or forsake him. The calf of the people which Aaron made for them represents all kinds of idols to us. But it matters not what it is, if we prefer it to God it is an idol. And what folly it is for us to expect any of these things to do us any good. What could the golden calf do for the children of Israel? Nothing but disappointment can come at last from idolatry. God only is able to do for us what we really need. Do not let us forget him. Explain that the Israelites were following a bad example in asking Aaron to "make gods" for them. They were copying the evils of the Egyptians. God had brought them out of that land of toil and misery, and had told them to leave forever the bad habits of the people down there; but they were easy for them to break away forever from their past evil companions. (The point is for our children to keep good company and not form habits that will be hard to get off in adult years.) The sin of the people was great; but they acted as if God had never made his word known to them, and as if he had never promised to bless them in their faithfulness to them. Perhaps they did not stop to think just what they were really doing. "Stop and think" is a good motto. If we remember it we will be saved from many temptations and sins. And then see how utterly their idol god failed them. What could the calf do anyway? When Moses came down from the Mount and saw what was done, the Divine anger was shown and the sin must be repented of or evil must follow. So it always is. There is no such thing as turning away from God without loss. Be sure your sin will find you out." It does not say, "Be sure your sin will be found out." You are the one to be found out, and the sin will be shown to be a vain and helpless thing when you most need help. Only God could lead the people of Israel through the wilderness. Only he can lead us through this world safe to the Heavenly Canaan. So this lesson shows us many important lessons, and we will be wise to say from our hearts of God, "Him only will we serve." Show how the knowledge the people had of God added to their sin before him in choosing the golden calf. So it is with us. We know. We are to do what we know. To know and do not is sinful. To know what we ought to do and do something else is idolatry, even if we never see a visible idol before us. How glad we should be that we do know, for the knowledge of God's will and the doing of