

## Junior Topics

### DEC. 15.—AN APPEAL TO YOUTH. Eccles. 12.

See 1 Sam. 3: 1-15; 1 Sam. 16: 1-16; John 6: 1-13. Tell the story as given in Luke 2: 43-50. The story may be told of Jesus as a boy in Nazareth, of his journey and what it meant to him to go to the temple. Tell of the service by which he stepped out of childhood and became a son of the law. Like all boys he had been subject to his parents. He no doubt worked with His father Joseph as a carpenter. He was faithful to any duty committed to him. He was unselfish. He attended regularly the services of the synagogue. Being in the temple, his interest was in things he was seeing and hearing. God spoke to Him in words meaning, "You belong to Me. It is time you let people know that you belong to your Heavenly Father." He had heard the call, and the natural thing was for him to stay in God's House and learn what His Heavenly Father would have Him do. Reference might also be made to the call of Samuel, of Moses, of David, or of Joshua and others. God calls you. Has anyone said to you, or has anything within you said, "You belong to God. It is time for you to stand up on Decision Day in your Sunday School, and say, 'I belong to God, and I will belong to His Church.' He wants you." Grow-up people, but by just being a boy or a girl for Him. There is one way to complete manhood, and that is fellowship, companionship with Jesus!

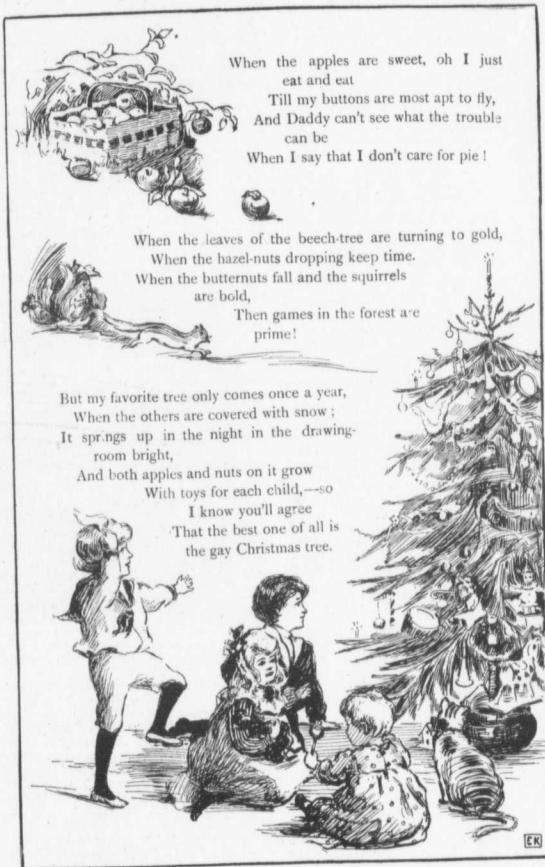
### DEC. 22.—THE ART OF MAKING OTHERS HAPPY. Prov. 15:15; John 13: 13-17.

When our dear Lord came to this earth and took upon Him our robe of flesh, He brought something the world had never known before. In glimpses humanity had seen the spirit of brotherhood, but until Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there was no abiding here of that heavenly spirit. We have studied the lessons of His life, learning of His gracious words and of His healing power to body, mind and soul. The pathway from the cradle to the cross was ever watched by angels, and briars and thorns were sown by many thankless men. No Christmas time ever comes without bringing freshly to us the thought of His matchless love and life. We each take the same road, following the Star in the East to the same goal where stood the shepherds and the wise men. We kneel again beside the Babe and offer Him our gifts. We have few greater satisfactions in our hearts and homes than those which arise from our own self-denial that we may make others happy. The gift which mother planned weeks ago, for which she economized, on which she sewed when the children were asleep is worth all the love that went into its making, and cannot be valued by dollars and cents. We, too, secretly plan to show our love to mother and father, to sister and brother. But outside our own comfortable homes we will try to give happiness. A little home not far away is a little woman in a new land. She is longing for a letter perchance from the home land. She sees her husband, thin and worn and weary with the hardships of daily toil. Her eyes and girls look shabby, and she wonders where she will get warmer clothing for the cold days. Baby will hang up her Christmas stocking, but the gifts will be few and simple. A longing comes to the loyal, loving heart for a bit of old life, for a tempting dinner, for the surprises of friendship, for the old church, for the music of the organ, for all the charm which is so common-place to some of us and for which she is homesick. Could

we send her some Christmas cheer? Could we help make her and the children any happier? Ask your deaconess or your pastor for the name? The joy which comes with the Christmas tree, the Christmas song, the Christmas stocking is not gone with the day; it endures through the frost and snow, and helps us in our life for the rest of the year. To every one God sends a merry Yule-tide. The story of the wise men as given in Ben Hur might be told, or Dickens' Christmas Carol might be used. See Psa. 72: 10; Psa. 60: 3; Mic. 5: 2.—C.G.W.

of the little yellow fingers that gathered the leaves, will you not pray that hearts may be opened to the sunshine of God's love, as the little tea leaves open in the sunshine on the hillside of China-land? Tell of the funny little houses the people live in, and the refreshments served when you call.

How do the boys and girls in blue study geography? Why does a Chinese mother bind the feet of her baby girl? In the girls' schools taught by our missionaries have the girls a happy time? What is now their happiest day of the



When the apples are sweet, oh I just eat and eat

Till my buttons are most apt to fly,  
And Daddy can't see what the trouble can be

When I say that I don't care for pie!

When the leaves of the beech-tree are turning to gold,  
When the hazel-nuts dropping keep time.  
When the butternuts fall and the squirrels are bold,

Then games in the forest are prime!

But my favorite tree only comes once a year,  
When the others are covered with snow;  
It springs up in the night in the drawing-room bright,

And both apples and nuts on it grow  
With toys for each child,—so

I know you'll agree  
That the best one of all is  
the gay Christmas tree.

### DEC. 29.—SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS IN CHINA. Luke 2: 42-52.

In the first five chapters of our study book we have learned of China and its older people, and now we are to hear of the boys and girls. As the book is an inexpensive copy, we would suggest that the pictures be cut out and pasted on cards and distributed amongst the Juniors. If you can obtain postal cards for illustrations, or, better still, slides for illustration, so much the better.

Tell of the modes of travel. What methods are adopted by the people to keep themselves warm? How do people salute each other when they meet? When you drink your cup of tea will you not think

year? Will we not pray that one day of us our Juniors will go to China to tell boys and girls that the rainbow of God's promise is for them too? See the April Epworth Era, 1907.—C.G.W.

### JAN. 5.—HOW TO LIVE IN 1913. Psa. 90: 12.

"It is a good thing always to face forward," Paul said, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark." In 1913 there is work for us to do. Tasks await our energy. Opportunities will be for helpfulness and usefulness. Tardy or lazy we may have