

Junior Topics

AUG. 18.—BIG LITTLE THINGS. Luke 19: 11-17; James 3: 4.

The lesson of the talents is not so much the difference between the faithful and the unfaithful servant as the fact that the first man took the small amount given him and did his best. "Whoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." "What is worth doing is worth doing well." Illustrations may be found in the discoveries of Franklin, Bell and others. Our lives depend much on little things. Some one has said: "The big, beautiful deeds which may come our way to do are the flowers, but the little, everyday thoughts and acts, which so often God only knows about, are the roots reaching deep and making flowers possible." Emphasize this truth by getting from the Juniors themselves, illustrations. Sixty years ago among the British soldiers at Hong-Kong, was a consecrated Sergeant, who used to write to friends in England telling them in his letters how the Chinese were without a knowledge of Jesus. One of these friends, a young man named George Piercy, rich in faith, was led to give himself for work there as a missionary. At his farewell meeting in Pickering Chapel there was present a little boy named Thomas Crosby, who was so impressed by the words of Piercy that he too resolved in his heart to be a missionary when he became a man. Soon afterwards the Crosby family came to Canada. Years passed. Rev. Thomas Crosby had been preaching at Cache Creek, and spent the night with some friends on a ranch. The cook was a Chinaman. After supper the preacher asked him, "Sah, do you know Jesus?" "Me see little bit," he replied. "Then let us pray," said Mr. Crosby. They knelt down and prayed, and to his surprise the Chinaman began to pray. When they arose from their knees John looked at the missionary, and said, "Me savvy Mr. Piercy, China, China, Mr. Piercy tell me about Jesus." It then dawned upon the missionary's mind that the man referred to was the George Piercy who long years before had gone to China from Pickering. The little boy of that night became our own beloved Dr. Crosby. Who will follow in his footsteps?—C. G. W.

AUG. 25.—WHAT THE MISSIONARIES SHOWED THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN AGRA. Luke 7: 36-50.

We have now reached Agra, the capital of the Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar, the greatest of their monarchs. We spend a day here, and visit many places—the Mughal Palace, the Taj Mahal, a Mission College and come to Lucknow. We attend a midnight meeting. Then we spend a morning in the schools. We peep into Hindu homes, spend a little time in a zenana, see a little girl widow, and have an interesting talk about famines. Regarding some of the above much valuable information may be found in the text book. Reference might also be made to the various people whom we meet—Hindus, English soldiers, Sepoys, tourists and beggars—telling of the different duties or occupations of each. A Junior might be asked to write a paper on the work of the Bible-women in the zenana. A description of the Palace or the Taj Mahal might be given by another Junior. In as vivid a way as possible let the boys and girls see into the various institutions named. There is a very interesting contrast between the Canadian and the Hindu home, and as we pass through the courtyard of the Hindu we learn more fully the meaning of the verse, "Use not vain repetitions

as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." For we see the Brahmin priests employed by the family to "pray without ceasing," sitting in some of the rooms on mats, praying and counting their beads. We feel so sorry for the girl widows, a number of whom we saw. We want all you girls to do what you can first by your prayers and then by your gifts, and we hope by giving yourselves, that the girls of India, and other parts of the world, may know of Jesus, whom you love and serve.

Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me.—C. G. W.

SEPT. 1.—THE SECRET OF VICTORY. Eph. 6: 10-19; 1 Sam. 17: 45, 46.

Truth.—The strength of God is all a Christian needs.

Point of Contact.—The story of David and Goliath.

Lesson.—Why was David wise in rejecting the armor which Saul offered him? Would it have made him the equal of Goliath? He would have been trying to meet the giant in the very way where in Goliath excelled and would have certainly been defeated. If he would conquer he must go about it in some other way.

The description of the giant's armor is the most complete of any given in the Bible; from it we may learn almost exactly the kind in use at that time. The head and body were protected by a helmet and sleeveless tunic composed of tiny flakes of brass, overlapping like the scales of a fish. His legs were covered by shields somewhat like those of a football player, made of brass. The weight of the coat, or tunic, was over one hundred and fifty pounds; of the spear he carried the head alone weighed nearly twenty pounds.

The armor of Saul was far lighter, being suit for a man of ordinarily large size, but it was still far too heavy for the slight lad who tried it. He would have been surely overborne by the sheer tremendousness of his opponent, and it was well that he chose to cast aside all human assistance.

The ancient armour grew heavier and heavier as the centuries passed, until, by the sixteenth century, the soldier was enclosed from head to toe in a complete suit of iron mail. Jointed plates covered shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees, a visor lowered over the entire face, and a huge shield was carried before him. It is easy to see, then, why Paul spoke and wrote so often of the "armor of Jesus Christ." In our chapter for to-day he compares, piece by piece, the armor of brass with that of God. Let us see the new names which he gives to the many pieces.

Heart Talk.—The last command of Jesus Christ was, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation." So long, therefore, as there is any sin left in the world the Christian must fight as a good soldier of Jesus. In years past men took this to mean that they must press their own religious views upon others at the point of the sword, and many terrible wars were the result. But more and more men are learning to put on the true gospel armor and to carry only the sword of the Spirit. In years past men took this to mean that they must press their own religious views upon others at the point of the sword, and many terrible wars were the result. But more and more men are learning to put on the true gospel armor and to carry only the sword of the Spirit.

Hymns.—Stand Up for Jesus.
The Son of God Goes Forth to War.

—The Junior Workers' Quarterly.

SEPT. 8.—A MASTER OR A SERVANT. James 1: 26; 3: 1-10.

In our Bible lesson for to-day (use the Revised Version) James shows us pic-

tures of four things, each of which may be a good servant, though they are all strong enough to be our masters.

First he shows us a horse. The horse is big and strong—stronger than his master—yet the master can guide him the way he wants him to go and make him draw heavy loads. How can he do this? (Draw the bridle.)

Then here is a big ship out on the sea. The winds and the waves can drive it before them, but men get on it and cross the sea in the way they want to go. Have you ever seen the pilot-house of a large steamer? How does the quartermaster guide the vessel? What does the wheel do? As James says, the ship is "turned about by a very small rudder, whither the impulse of the steersman willeth."

Have you ever seen a great building burn to the ground? All the wood that man has done on the building may be destroyed in a short time. Some of our Juniors have seen the smoke of the forest fires, and, perhaps, have had to ride on a train through the burning forest, leaving their homes and their lives. And yet what a good servant fire may be! It warms our houses and cooks our food and gives us light and runs our trains and steamboats.

A cage is used to hold wild beasts so that we can see them without danger. But even wild beasts may be tamed and trained by man so that some of them, like the elephant and camel, become very gentle and useful.

James shows us these four pictures to teach us a lesson about ruling ourselves. Each of us have a little tongue that is like the rudder of a ship. The person who masters his tongue can direct his whole self for good. (Write, "The tongue is a little member.") The man who can bridle his tongue has a stronger servant than the horse. If we do not bridle our tongues they will be our masters, leading us into all sorts of trouble. (Write, "Bride the tongue.") Our words are worse than fire, for they may burn up human happiness and success, but if they are our servants they give warmth and encouragement and light to all around us. (Write, "The tongue is a fire.") Man has tamed the wild beast but he can't tame his tongue without God's help. (Write, "The tongue can no man tame.")

Let us ask God now to help us make our tongues into good servants.—Epworth Herald.

The Love of a Dog

For several years a small business-like dog sold newspapers to hundreds of people in Boston every day. The little dog, so loving, patient and faithful to his crippled master, was always to be seen near the Park Street subway entrance, trotting around with a paper in his mouth, until a sale was made to a regular customer or a stranger. The money must first be deposited in a small leather pocket attached to the collar with bells which the dog wore, before the paper was to be had; then the dog would return to his master for another paper to sell.

Silently, yet persistently, this dog of business approached the men, women and children with the latest news of the day. Patrons dropped their pennies in the pocket about the dog's neck and hurried away, more thoughtful and considerate of others because of this friendly morning greeting. Often the shopping people and children would linger for a friendly talk. It was not an unusual sight to see from fifty to a hundred persons waiting their turn to buy and say a few kind words to the intelligent little worker.

Each week the dog earned about twenty-five dollars for his master, who in return shared with him his food and bed, his heart, with his companion. Such love and service were as the love of David and Jonathan!—Our Dumb Animals.