

Young People's Department.

ARTHUR'S APPLE TREE.

For OUR MISSION NEWS.

"FATHER, will you give me an apple tree?"

So said Arthur Westwood one day when he was in his father's orchard. Mr. Westwood had a large farm, and he took great pride in his orchard. Frequently was he seen in it, pruning the branches, or plucking the fruit. Though he was a well to do, even wealthy farmer, he was not very generous. He had several fine children, of whom he was very proud, and he loved them all dearly. His elder boy, Arthur, was liked by all who knew him, and he generally was able to get from his father what others would scarcely venture to ask. But this question regarding the apple tree was so far in advance of his usual requests that his father was somewhat startled.

"An apple tree, my son, why what can you want of an apple tree?"

"Well, father, I would like to have one, to be my very own; I will watch it myself, and keep off the caterpillars and gather the fruit. It would be so nice for me to have something of my very own to care for."

"But then, Arthur, the fruit will be valuable; it will be worth money."

"Yes but, father, you would scarcely miss one tree out of all this large orchard. Little Mary and I went from tree to tree yesterday and counted them all, and there are two hundred; and surely you would not miss one, even if it is worth money, out of so many."

"You shall have your tree then, Arthur; it may make you industrious and interested in the work about the place, but I hope you will be careful to save the money that you get from it and not lose or squander it."



GATHERING APPLES.

"And may I do what I like with the money, father?"

"Yes, for this once you may."

Then the tree was selected, beautiful golden Pippins, and it was known as "Arthur's tree."

Mr. Westwood was a churchwarden. The clergyman of the parish, Mr. Vail, often visited him, and nothing did Arthur like better than to listen to his words. He would often linger near him on purpose to hear him talk. On the evening after the tree was selected, Mr. Vail took tea at Mr. Westwood's, and during the evening something was said about the missionary meeting that was soon to be held in the church. Mr. Vail expressed the wish that more people would interest themselves in the great question of missions than did, and in this Mr. Westwood acquiesced, though he did not seem to regard it very seriously.