

MAKING A SNOWBALL.

Almost all of us have, if not in our maturer years, certainly in our youth or childhood, made snowballs, and what happy recollections does the thought bring back; gay, ringing voices of merry, light-hearted, warmly-clad children, storming the snow forts of the enemy, or under the leadership of our Wellington driving Napoleon and his soldiers headlong from our Waterloo. But this is aside from the subject. I was speaking of making a snowball. First, we pick up a quantity of snow big enough for three or four handfuls; then it is placed in the left hand and pressed and struck with the right made concave or hollow, so as to make it round and hard. Sometimes we would keep on pressing it till it would be scarcely one-quarter its original size. Now it is cold and small and hard, and will hurt severely the one it strikes.

How exactly like the making of a snowball is our treatment of our own hearts. How often the heart which in childhood was generous and liberal, in middle life or old age has become miserly and selfish. The man, large-hearted to start with, yet even then somewhat cold, had a chance to do a generous act, he refused; his heart became smaller. Another opportunity presented itself; again he refused; the heart became smaller still. Another and another and another were treated similarly by him, and each time his heart grew smaller and smaller, harder and harder, colder and colder, till now he who was noble and generous has become grasping and selfish, and hard and small, ready to take advantage of and injure all with whom he comes in contact. Let us beware how we treat the nobler impulses of our hearts.

Lindsay.

H.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The young people in the church are the glory of it. Their fervor, which has not yet been cooled down by considerations of mere expediency, is a force of immense value. Even if once in awhile they show an excess of zeal, they are not to

be too sharply criticised. Such an excess is an admirable offset to the dull and stupid indifference of too many of their parents and other elders. The church whose courts are not thronged with young people is in a fair way to extinction. Let us bring them in betimes, and dedicate them with all the solemn sanctions of religion to the service of God and their fellowmen. Let us keep our hearts warm to them, sympathizing with whatever is generous in their hopes and aims, and helping them in all their efforts to bring worthy ends to pass. Let us avoid harshness and unkindness in dealing with them. We need them more than we suppose, and we shall be guilty of a great piece of folly if we treat them with indifference and neglect.

As a matter of course, the young people are not as competent to form judicious plans for work and service as are those that have had a larger experience. There is a certain practical wisdom that comes only with advancing years. If young men are best for action, it is still true that old men are best for counsel. We trust that our young friends everywhere will bear this fact in mind, and be influenced by it. Modesty is a becoming virtue, and especially so in those that have not yet made trial of the world.—*Selected.*

Robert Annan, of Dundee, was a remarkable instance of the power of redeeming grace. He was suffering from a keen sense of sin, utterly broken down by the power of God's Spirit, when the Rev. John Macpherson, who had learned of his distress, visited him. "Robert, are you looking for a sign from heaven? Ought you not to rest on the Word of God, which says, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,' and 'Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.'?" The result of this fitly-spoken word was that Robert Annan was brought into the light, and led straightway to the peace that comes from believing. His after life was a beautiful illustration of the power of the Gospel to raise the fallen, and enable them to walk worthy of God, in all well-pleasing, abounding in every good work.

THE OFFERTORY IN SUMMER

Our churchwardens are often at their wits' end to make current expenses in the summer season, when so many Church people are away for their holidays. If the envelope system is well worked the present deficit rights itself on the return of the people to their own church. But how few really give systematically and upon principle! The Rev. Dr. Pentecost, of Marylebone Presbyterian Church, who is such a favorite in London, has suggested to the members of his church who are leaving for their summer holidays that they should make an estimate of their free-will offerings for current expenses, and hand the amount to the church treasurer *before they go*. This plan would save much worry and trouble.

SUMMER SUGGESTIONS.

So many Church people emigrate for a time during the summer months that a few suggestions to those who remain may be appropriate to the season.

In the first place, as to church going: Let us be regular in our attendance, and as far as possible at both of the Sunday services. The readiness with which some people have adapted themselves to the custom of once-a-day attendance, and of regular visits to other churches, is a discouraging circumstance to many a pastor. The member of the congregation who is really interested in the work will be found in his seat, with rare exceptions, at every service of the church. And his influence in this respect will be specially felt during the summer months.

Then as to singing and responding: Heartiness in these respects will be greatly valued while the congregations are apt to be slim. An improvement in this matter might easily be made at any time of the year, but it will be of special usefulness just now. Let us bear in mind and take to heart that portion of our service with which we are all so familiar that we perhaps forget to act upon it as much as we might: