

Young People's Department.



GOING TO CHURCH IN JANUARY.

CHURCH-GOING.

DO you like to go to church? We hope you do. Young people, learn to love your church, for then when you get older you will have the habit with you and it will be a good one. Some people don't go to church much, but still they like to have the church in their midst. Sometimes a man will give a large subscription and work hard to build a church, and then, when it is built, will be satisfied if his wife and children attend it and let him stay at home. How strange this is! But it shows that the man knows the value of the church, but that he had got into a careless habit about it himself. With some people it is very easy to go to church. If they live in a city, perhaps all they have to do is to go round a corner on a good, dry pavement, for in all Christian countries churches are built very close to one another. But sometimes in the country and in missionary districts it is a very difficult matter to attend church. The church, perhaps, is a long distance off, the roads are muddy and bad, or all blocked up with snow. See them in the picture. This is the way they had to go to church in early days in new settlements, and yet they prized it—prized it all the more because it was so hard to reach it. Sometimes people travel a great many miles to have a baby christened or some dear one buried, or to receive the Holy Communion, or to hear the Word of God preached. The church should be to us the dearest spot on earth. We should always go to it with feelings of reverence and love. Like the Israelites of old, who

thronged their temple and shouted for joy that they had such a privilege.

"Oh! 'twas a joyful sound to hear
Our tribes devoutly say,
'Up Israel to the temple haste
And keep your festal day.'"

JACK'S OFFERING.

FROM THE "YOUNG CHRISTIAN SOLDIER."

IT was Sunday afternoon, the lesson was ended, and in each class the collection was being taken. There was certainly something very unusual going on, for the children watched anxiously as the little envelopes passed from one to another. The day had long been talked of, for the money from this collection was to go to missions, and the scholars were deeply interested and anxious that it should be as large as possible. In a certain class of boys, the excitement seemed particularly high.

"I wonder how much we will get?" said Max Sheldon, a bright-faced boy, turning anxiously to his next neighbor. "I hope it will be a lot. If we can only beat Mr. Colton's class it's all I care about! How slow Harry is in passing that envelope! Ah, now it's going to the rich member; I wonder if he will put in ten dollars, as usual?"

The two boys laughed heartily over their joke. They did not mean to be unkind, did not even intend that their words should be overheard; but they had carelessly spoken louder than they knew; unnoticed by them, their remarks had reached and cruelly wounded the sensitive little