

Young People's Department.



INDIANS MAKING THEIR OFFERINGS.

RED INDIANS AND THEIR OFFERINGS.

AS a rule the Indians of this country are poor, but sometimes they are found to be possessed of comfortable homes and some money to spare. As a rule, too, they are liberal in their gifts and like to make their offerings in church usually; also, they are prompt, because they prepare before hand, "lay by them in store," as the Scripture tells them, and so are ready when the pay day comes.

Some years ago, however, the missionary at Walpole Island, Diocese of Huron, told of an Indian who promised to pay a certain amount to their Mission Fund but did not fulfil his promise, though he was quite able to do so. Four years afterwards he was taken sick and the missionary visited him. He read and prayed with him, and the passage he selected was the story of Zacchæus. He was much interested, and when the missionary had gone he made his son read the passage to him again.

"The conversion of Zacchæus must have been a *real* one," he said, "because he was willing to restore fourfold if he had defrauded any one."

"No doubt," said the missionary, "he was in earnest, and fully intended to lead a new life."

After thinking a little while he said, "As soon as I get well I mean to pay the money that I promised to pay to missions and never paid, although I was quite able to do so."

He got well, but he seemed to forget all about his promise. Three years went by, and then, one Christmas day, he appeared in the church and brought his long promised gift, and also another

contribution which he had also promised. He stood at the chancel rail and made his offering, not like Zacchæus, however, restoring fourfold, but at least fulfilling his agreement.

A STRIKING incident took place on Good Friday at Chatham, in the Garrison Church, when Dr. Edghill, who is one of the most popular preachers in England—and who, by the way, in some respects reminds one of the good Bishop of Derry—was preaching. In the midst of his discourse, when the whole mass of soldiers were listening intently and eagerly, and when silence was so great that even the ticking of the clock in the gallery could be heard, the chaplain-general put a question to the congregation. "It was," he said, "the soldiers' duty to nail Jesus to the cross. They were only carrying out their orders in doing this; but was it their duty to insult the Saviour? Was it their duty to spit in His face, and weave a crown of thorns for His sacred head?" On asking this a child's voice was heard, answering boldly, plainly and emphatically—"No." "Right, my boy," the chaplain-general said, "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou has perfected praise."

A FARMER whose barns were full of corn prayed that the wants of the needy might be supplied; but when the poor asked for the corn he said he had none to spare. One day, after hearing his father pray for the needy, his little son said to him, "Father, I wish I had your corn."

"Why, my son, what could you do with it?"

The child replied, "I would answer your prayers father."