

SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

I.

WHEN do men begin to train a horse if they wish him to be good for anything? When he is a colt, certainly. And if boys and girls wish to be men and women, noble and good and true, they must begin now. Especially if they wish to be Christian men and women they should start for that goal by giving themselves now to Christ. He loves to have the young and He makes glad and bright their lives.

II.

The church members of a few years hence, the ministers, and elders, and Sabbath school teachers are now boys and girls. They are among you, young people. If you are to be useful workers in the church then you should begin now. "How shall I begin?" By doing well the part that you now have to do, learning your lessons, being in your place in Sabbath school and church, collecting your missionary money, praying for the church and its work.

III.

Another thing you should do is to learn about our church; what her name is, how large she is, what work she is doing at home and abroad, then you will be able to help so much the more when you grow up. And now I am going to ask you something. I will ask you to tell me what the name of our church is, why she is called that, and how large she is, and what work she is doing at home and abroad. I want you to write me a short essay on the subject, of not more than two hundred words and perhaps some of your essays will do to print. I would like to print a lot of them.

IV.

You should feel that this work of our church is your own work. You have a part in it. You are a shareholder. The missionaries are doing your work, you are helping to support them, and when you read about them you should remember that it is your work

they are doing and you should take an interest in seeing that they do it well.

V.

When you are voting your money which you have collected in your mission bands and societies, you should remember that this work of your church has the first claim upon you. It is yours. The Home Mission work, the French work, the Foreign Mission work, is your work, and you should see whether this is supported, before you vote your money away to other things, even to other missions, because we are bound to support our own missionaries, and then after that if we have money to help others, all well.

VI.

Your own work this year is in great need. You hear elder people talk about the "hard times." Many people cannot give as they used to do, and there is not enough money coming in to keep your missionaries, and all that you can give is needed for that purpose to the funds of your own church. Your missionaries are doing your work and you are bound to help them in it.

VII.

A boy was at a missionary meeting. He was deeply interested, the collection was being taken. He was very poor and had nothing to give. He did not know what to do. The plate came along. Hold it lower, said he. Lower still. Put it on the floor. It was done. He stepped into it. He gave himself, and when he grew up he became a missionary. Some of you young people will give yourselves to do the Lord's work at home and abroad. It will be a grand offering for Him who gave Himself for you.

VIII.

Now for the essays, let hundreds of them come. Get the knowledge everywhere you can. Ask your parents, your teachers, your ministers, look up books or papers, get what you can in any way you can and send it. It will help yourselves and perhaps others.

IX.

Prizes of one dollar each will be given for these essays as follows:—1. A prize for the best one written by young people under nine