

the books of this League that Active members pay ten cents a month, and associate members five cents. That has not been done, simply because the president and the treasurer did not look after it.

Just one more point of contrast and then I am done. At "H," one member, who has been there for over three years, and is then an ex-president, severs his connection to "go west." The League holds a very affective farewell service, and presents him with a beautiful address, wishing him "God-speed." In the same night at "I," five members are present for the last time. One is an ex-president, who has been a member for five years; three are Active members of three years' standing, and the other is an Associate member. Not one word of farewell is said during the entire service,

it was said, centuries ago, "Let none of you appear before the Lord empty." It is an honorable office that is imposed upon you, that of receiving the offerings which your fellow worshipers have brought to the sanctuary. Hence you never need allow a feeling of timidity or shamefacedness to come over you, as though you were put in the light of asking help. Giving should be an act of worship, and the prefatory words which sometimes precede the collection—"Let us now worship the Lord with our offerings"—should not be regarded as a mere form of empty words. By your courteous demeanor and your reverent conduct you may help therefore to exalt this part of the service and bring others to feel that it is not a mere financial proceeding, without any religious value.

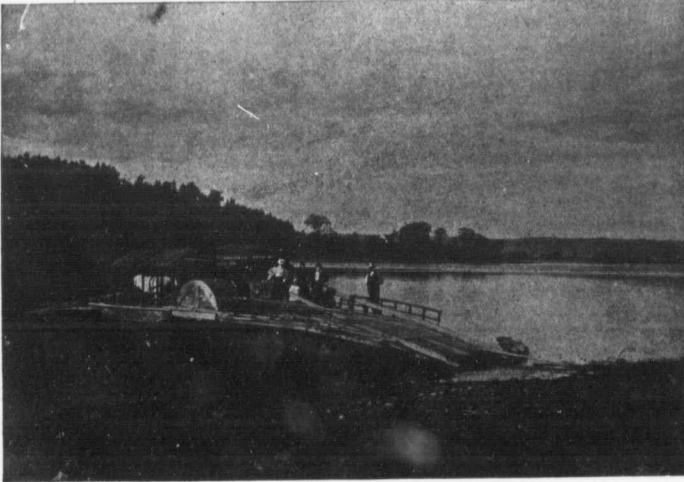
indebtedness to the ecclesiastical enterprise whose benefit he is sharing. If the thought ever comes to his mind,—based upon unhappy experiences in the past, when he has gone through a well-dressed congregation and returned the basket to the chancel with a few dismal pennies in it,—that many people who come to church are either careless or stingy, he ought never allow that thought to appear embodied in his policy as a basket carrier. He ought to act as if everybody was willing to make an offering.
—*Central Christian Advocate.*

AN HOUR A DAY.

The keynote to the character of the young is the way in which they employ their leisure time. A writer to the

Sunday School Herald tells what an ambitious boy did with one leisure hour a day. There is encouragement in the story for all earnest young people.

A few years ago two poor boys from the old town of Plymouth, Mass., went down to a lonely part of the coast to gather a certain seaweed from the rocks, which, when bleached and dried, is sold as Irish moss, for culinary purposes. The boys lived in a little hut on the beach. They were out before dawn to gather or prepare the moss, which had to be wet with salt water many times, and spread out in the sun until it was thoroughly whitened. They had one hour each day free from work. One of them spent it lying on the sand asleep. The other had brought



LUNT'S FERRY, ST. JOHN RIVER.

and no mention is made of the leaving of those who have been faithful members.

In conclusion, let me assure you that I am stating facts, and not writing fiction; facts only too well known in the district in which these Leagues are.

Lucan, Ont

CONCERNING THE COLLECTION.

In the absence of a regular school of methods for the instruction of those who act as collectors in our churches, we have in mind certain suggestions which may help these important servitors of our congregations.

Brothers, you should magnify your office, considering that you occupy a post which brings you at every service prominently before the congregation. Never for a moment should you fancy that you are begging a favor when you pass the collection baskets. You are rather conferring a privilege,—giving the people the opportunity to respond to the Scriptural command, "Bring an offering, and come into His courts." To ancient Israel

Be deliberate, therefore, in your conduct of this part of the service. Do not hurry through it, or slur it over. Give everybody a chance to contribute, and act as though you expected an offering from every attendant. Sometimes an usher will take a swift, searching glance into a well-filled pew, and, upon seeing that nobody is getting out any money, he will pass on without sending the basket along that bench full at all. That is an inexcusable piece of neglect. The usher has no right to take it for granted that there is no money in such a pew. He ought to deliberately stop, pass the basket courteously and expectantly to each one successively, giving each one a fair chance to get out the purse and extricate a silver coin from it and drop it into the basket. To hurry from one seat to another is to slight a very important part of the service, and run the risk of giving generous people no opportunity to contribute. The usher should take it for granted that everyone who comes to church is willing to recognize by a contribution some measure of his financial

out his books, and studied for that hour, trying to keep up with his school-mates.

Fifteen years after the first boy, now a middle-aged man, was still gathering moss on the coast near Plymouth.

The second emigrated to Kansas, became the leading man in a new settlement and a wealthy, influential citizen.

"No matter what was my work," he said, lately, "I always contrived to give one hour a day to my education. This is the cause of my success in life."

BILLY BRAY'S religion is described as follows: "Billy had lighted his candle, and resolved that it should give light to all that were in the house. His religion was not a safety lamp, laid by until he should be going down into the dark valley, nor like the chapel gas light, that burned on Sundays. Once lighted, it was put into a commonplace sort of candlestick, but all at home could see by it. One thing about his candle Billy never forgot; it burned none the worse for every candle that was lighted from it."