

young man threw himself into a skiff, and the rowers strove to reach us, while the young man shouted with all his might. The captain at first seemed not to hear him, but at last he took his speaking-trumpet, and shouted to him, "We cannot stop, you should have come sooner; *you are too late.*" The skiff returned into the harbour, and our vessel went on her way.

My thoughts followed the young man, and then returned to my fellow-travellers. We have all, I said to myself, another voyage—a much more important voyage—to make; yet how many there are who never think seriously of it! Like the spectators whom we have left on the shore, they see others going towards the kingdom of God, and looking on them with an indifferent and curious eye, satisfy themselves with thinking that they also must some day, at a very distant period, set out on the same journey. Blessed be God! there are at least some, who convinced of the value of their immortal souls, come at the proper season to our Lord Jesus Christ, and devote to God the first-fruits of their years, and the morning of their life. He directs them by his wisdom; he sustains them by his promises, and his effectual grace conducts them in safety to eternal rest. Others remain behind, notwithstanding the entreaties of their friends. Engrossed with the occupations of this life, seduced by its pleasures, influenced by the example of the worldly, they put off from day to day the important matter of salvation, until the Holy Spirit makes the sound of gospel truths reach their hearts, when they hasten to obey the voice which awakens them. But, alas! how dangerous it is to delay to obey the call of God! There comes a time when disease causes a sort of stupor, which renders men incapable of reading or listening to the messages of divine love. Reader! do not put off to the hour of death attending to the interests of your eternity, for *you may*

come too late! The vessel could not stop; the captain would not always take in passengers. Those who listen neither to the voice of their conscience, nor to the invitations of the Gospel, and who resist the Almighty till the last moment, may call and not be heard, may cry and supplicate in vain.—Prov. i. 24, 33.

"Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. vi. 2.

METIS, C.E.

T. F.

Every Christian should Labour.

Dr. Wayland, speaking of the Christians who were dispersed by the first persecution of the church at Jerusalem, says: "This little band accomplished more for the conversion of the world than all the Christians of the present day would have done."—Does any one ask why? "Because," says he, "every individual felt that the conversion of the world was the work to which *he himself*, and not an abstraction called the church, was responsible. Instead of relying on man for aid every man looked directly up to God to forward the work; God was thus exalted, his power was confessed; and very soon, in a few years, the standard of the cross was carried to the remotest extreme of the then known world."

THE LAST CHANGE.

Change sweeps o'er the world, like the waves o'er the sea,
From Creation 'twas so, through time it shall be;
But what are the changes, conflicting below,
Compared with that change we must all undergo;
Death enters the palace, the sceptre to sway.
The soul, from its temple, in flight wings away:
Then beauty and elegance moulder to dust,
Friends leave it for ever, with grief and disgust;
In earth it is hid, a foul, festering mass,
The worms through its chambers in revelry pass,
Our name is erased from the census of life,
Our place is filled up, when we've quitted the strife,
And the tide of events laves on as before,
The loved and the lost are remembered no more.
TORONTO, 18th January. X. Y. Z.