

Young People's Department.

LATE.

THIS picture explains itself. The boy has loitered on the way to school, and now, he stands outside, with downcast look and uneasy conscience. "He is late."

Habits of procrastination thus early formed are likely to grow, until in future years, fastening themselves upon us, they cause much sorrow and disappointment. The boy who forms the habit of being late from school, will be late also at business; late in the struggle of life; and, worst of all, may be late in seeking Heaven.

The son of Napoleon III. generally known as the Prince Imperial, even in his youth sought to delay. "It was ever his habit," says his mother, "to plead for ten minutes delay; so much so that I used to call him, 'Monsieur Dix Minutes' (that is 'Master Ten Minutes'). It was always ten minutes more to sleep in the morning; ten minutes more at night to sleep in his chair; and when too overcome with sleep to speak he would hold up his little hands, the ten fingers representing the ten minutes for which he pleaded."

No doubt some of our young readers have heard of his visit to Zululand, and his tragic death, when, pierced by nineteen wounds, he fell on June 1st, 1879. The Prince in command of a party of six, was despatched to select a camping ground for the army. The site having been chosen, and the party having partaken of coffee, one of the officers

suggested that they should return; but the young Prince said, "No; let us wait ten minutes."

They waited; and while preparing to re-mount, a party of warriors came upon them. The others escaped; but the Prince, "was late," and he lost his life.

Dear children, there is another and more solemn view of this subject. There are some people who

put off believing in Jesus until it is too late, and it means a *lost soul*. Thank God it is not yet too late. Yet remember, that though you may be yet young there is a possibility of your being called away before you become much older. Be prepared. Don't trifle, don't put off the offer of the Gospel, lest some day, the door shut and you outside, it may be said, "Too late, ye cannot enter now!"* Remember the parable of the Ten Virgins,—“Too late, ye cannot enter now.”

This was said to the five foolish virgins. They could not enter in where the bridegroom was because they were late, and why were they late? Simply because they did not take oil with them for their lamps. They made no preparation. And there are so many people who make no preparation for death. So many

put it off until it is too late. All young people should be wise and learn the value of time. The boy who is too late for school will be too late perhaps at last, and then will come the bitter sorrow of time thrown away for nothing.



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*From the "Faithful Witness," Toronto.