

version of the world. If you would bear a part in the great enterprise of overturning the empire of Satan and renovating the earth, now is your time. If you would rescue your children, or your parents, your brothers, or your sisters, or your companions, from final ruin, now or never is your time. If you would assuage the torrents of human tears—if you would lighten the burden of human woe—if you would do any thing to meliorate the condition of this miserable world, awake, and do it now, or never, for soon your connection with the things of time will be dissolved. W. T.

—*New York Evangelist.*

To the Editor.

I have often noticed and lamented, both in others and myself, the existence of the evil pointed out in the following passage. It is extracted from a small volume of very important "*HINTS on the Regulation of Christian Churches, &c.*," by the Rev. C. STOVEL," pastor of the Baptist Church in Little Prescott Street, London, for many years the scene of the labours of the venerable ABRAHAM BOOTII.

The writer is complaining of the remissness and indolence which prevent the greater part of the hearers, and even members of churches, from receiving the benefit they might from the services of the sanctuary. He calls it "an indolent aversion to study," using the last word in its most extended sense, and speaks of it in these terms:—

"It arises partly from a bad state of heart, but chiefly from a mistaken view of Christian ordinances. In this respect the members of our churches often resemble those sons of great men for whom the best instruction has been provided; and who, therefore, feel that they are raised above all personal exertions. This

is totally wrong; all the use of tutors is to awaken and to direct exertion: they can never be a substitute for it. It is the same with Christian ordinances. They may serve to call forth the energy of the people, and to direct them when properly awakened; but if they are regarded as a substitute for personal activity, they will inflict an injury where they were intended to confer a benefit. In the nature of things it is not possible that a Pastor, with all the advantage of deacons and ordinances, could ever make a people wise unto salvation, who used no diligence in studying the word of God for themselves. Nor will this suffice alone; the man who wishes to profit by the word, must carefully study his own heart. It is for want of this that sermons are often disliked and ridiculed; the ordinances uninfluential; the fellowship of the church unprofitable; prayer itself uninteresting; and, finally, the ministry is forsaken. In all the process there was a clamorous complaint of barrenness, but no labour was spent in the husbandry of the soul. It is necessary for such to know, that this Royal road to religious comfort and improvement, if ever it was open to mortals upon earth, has for a long time been shut up. None are allowed to pass by that way into heaven now. It is useless to expect too much from ministers; their services, however faithful, can never relieve the people from the necessity of studious application. This is ordained to be an attendant on all ordinances of whatever kind. This being forgotten, their utility is lost, their sanctity is despised, the officers become grieved and insulted, and thence, as from a fountain, streams of evil flow into the churches."

Let all who read these hints ponder them well. To those who need them not, if there be any such, they will do no harm; and those to whom they are applicable may and ought to turn