

or were betrayed by their "own familiar friend"; "out of the depths they cried unto the Lord. "No wonder that the Psalms became so popular and influential." The same writer also says: "The completed Psalter of Marot and Beza with the music (which Calvin by the labors of Guillaume Franc and other musicians had) provided for it was published in Strasbourg in 1546. At first it was popular among Romanists as well as among Protestants, but unfortunately Calvin put it into the appendix to his Catechism. This identified it with Protestantism, and Marot's Psalms at once became a badge and criterion of heresy. Although they have continued in use in French Protestant churches to this day, the general baldness and poverty of these melodies (one of which is old hundredth) have kept them from becoming popular. There is no great pulse in them; they appeal to no tender sensibilities, to no strong passions; they are mere artists' work. The Protestants of France, therefore, like ourselves, are endeavouring to improve their psalmody, and of this endeavour the "Chants Chrétiens" is the present, and on the whole a satisfactory sign. France had no cantiques prior to those of Benedict Pictet, in 1704; her chief sacred hymnodist hitherto has been Cæsar Malan." The following hymn is the 90th in the collection of Nouveaux Cantiques Chrétiens published by Cæsar Malan in 1824. Although not so well adapted for purposes of praise as many others by the same author it is not without features of beauty and interest.

Soon ends our life, 'tis quickly done;  
 Our grave is now before our eyes.  
 Full soon our course on earth is run;  
 To join the dead our spirit flies.  
 O vanity of vanities!

What real good rewards our pains,  
 Our many labours, cares and sighs?  
 At most they bring us gilded chains,  
 A name, false friends, a worthless prize:  
 O vanity of vanities!

What grief, what misery and fear,  
 With sharp remorse, from sin arise!  
 Although its charms may please us here,  
 Beneath these flowers perdition lies  
 O vanity of vanities!

Finished the warp of years we weave,  
 To endless worlds the spirit hies.  
 Lord Jesus, then our soul receive,  
 Clothe it in Thine own holy guise:  
 In Thy blood purge its vanities!

### DEACONESSES.

Two closely allied questions have of late years occupied the attention of Christian or Church economists, and have led to much discussion, as also, what is more important, to action in the walks of Christian usefulness. These are, what is the place of women in the work of the Church? and to what extent should woman's work in the Church be official, systematized, consolidated? We need but look abroad upon the congregations of our own Canada Presbyterian Church, to find decided and grateful recognition of the services of female labourers in the Sabbath School, in Missionary Societies, Dorcas Societies, and many