

Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.—John vi. 37.

I Have to Meet God.



THE incident of our illustration happened in Australia some years ago. A poor fellow, who had cast off all restraint, and had practically sold himself to the service of sin and Satan, was captured and condemned to death. Though he had been so lawless, and had given vent to the passions and desires of the human heart, he had not found it an easy or a comfortable life; he worked hard to sin, and was just led by the arch-enemy of his soul into deeds for which he was long "wanted," and was eventually caught.

A servant of Christ, knowing the few hours he had to live, sought and obtained permission to visit him. The poor criminal paced his cell like a restless lion, uttering terrible groans. In reply to a question about dying, he said he was not afraid to die, but at eight o'clock the following morning he had "TO MEET GOD." That was the thought that troubled him. He had to meet God, and was unprepared.

Dear reader, are such as these the only men who need to get ready to meet God? No, alas! many men are just as unprepared as this poor criminal was. They may be free from the same kind of sins, but yet not ready to die. If we are going a journey we get ready, and yet concerning the journey into eternity so few are ready to start. Some one says, How can I get ready? There is but one way, and that is by coming to Christ as a guilty sinner, and accepting Him as the all-sufficient Saviour.

Why not Now?

AN account is given of a woman, *eighty years old*, who wished to become a Christian. But there was a difficulty in the way. So she asked several friends to come with the minister and talk with her. She admitted the truth of all they said, but something held her back.

Said the minister: "Why not give yourself now, within ten minutes?"

Oh, she could not!

"Why not?"

She wanted time, she said; it was too sudden. Ten minutes! Oh, no! she "must have time to think about it."

"You are old," said the minister; "how long have you been thinking about it already?"

She paused a moment, and then said slowly: "Fifty years."

"Fifty years!" cried the minister; "and yet you want more time! Isn't fifty years enough?"

That was a new way of looking at it. Fifty years, indeed!

"What shall I do?" she eagerly asked.

"Do nothing," was the answer; "but leave all with God. Let us pray to Him to lift the burden."

So they prayed. And suddenly light came through the darkness, the burden rolled away, and, like a little child, the old woman received the kingdom of heaven.

Others to-day who are lingering far from God and far from rest, might settle the great question of eternal life within an hour, and be at peace with God for evermore. You have thought long enough, now *act*! When God calls us to *act*, delay is refusing; thinking is disobeying. "Behold *now* is the accepted time."

