

instincts, and those of whom as much only can be said, will doubtless be attracted and influenced by the views she sets forth. In the case of those who have never made earnest with the things of God and eternity, and in that of those whose love to Christ has grown cold, this insignificant book will come as a most dangerous adviser, leading both to rest in a gospel of Heaven which is not the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It may appear to some that the enemy is not worth the powder and shot expended on him. We trust that it may be so. Those, however, who have watched the progress of the leaven, of which the literature about Heaven forms a part, are not so hopeful in view of its results. To the minds of the young, the curious, and the imaginative, there is a great charm in a religion of pleasing pictures with corresponding emotions and hopes; and the fear that many may be induced to rest in it rather than to seek, even by painful strivings and self-abnegation, for a truer and more spiritual Kingdom of Heaven, is, alas, too well grounded.

The object of this article is not to discountenance the prosecution of enquiries into the enjoyments and occupations of a future state, or the reading of books that wisely treat of so interesting a subject. Reason and analogy, guided by the light of Revelation, may make such a study profitable as well as pleasing, as may be seen in the case of such books as Dr. Dick's *Philosophy of a Future State*. Only let this study keep in its proper place, and let Christian men and women learn and teach that the first great care of all is to obtain that Kingdom which "is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee on the state of religion respectfully requests Ministers and Kirk Sessions to send replies to the following questions to the Clerks of their respective Presbyteries by the 15th of January, 1870.

1. Do those members of the Church who are parents, regard it as their duty to bring their children to Jesus?
2. Is family worship observed morning and evening in the houses of the members of the Church?
3. Are prayer meetings held within the bounds of the congregation, one if so, how are they attended?
4. Do the members of the Church work for mutual edification, and for the conversion of others?
5. Do they afford evidence of feeling their responsibilities as stewards of Jesus Christ, by giving of their substance as God has prospered them?
6. Are the Sabbath Schools well attended, and do the teachers aim at the conversion of their pupils?
7. Is the Shorter Catechism used in the families and in the Sabbath Schools?
8. Is there any marked change in the religious condition of the congregation during the past year?
9. Do you know of any cause which seems to prevent the young from receiving the Gospel and openly confessing Christ?
10. To what extent does the sin of intemperance prevail in your neighbourhood, and what proportion of the members testify against the drinking usages by total abstinence from intoxicating drinks?

JOHN MACTAVISH, *Convener*.

Woodville, 23rd Nov., 1869.

P.S.—Presbyteries are requested to send replies to the Convener before the end of March.