

He blessed them in prayer for them. See Matthew xiii. He lifted up His loving desires for them, in conscious union with the loving desires of the heart of his Father. Thus we are assured that both Father and Son loved and love the little ones.

I conclude these notes with the following words from Rev. Dr. Bethune, of the Dutch Reformed Church, New York:—"Now mark not only the tenderness of Jesus, but the reasons He assigns for it. He takes them up in His arms. He lays their little heads in His holy bosom. He blesses them with Divine authority. He does so the more emphatically, to rebuke those who would have kept them from Him. The Master himself, the Head of the Church, the Perfect Example of the Church, clasped little children gladly to His heart. For what reason? Because of a tenderness, natural in so loving a spirit as His, towards helpless smiling babes? That might well be. Or that He might recommend little children to the care of His disciples? This was certainly true. But the main reason He gives Himself—'*Of such is the kingdom of God.*' What can this mean? For our Lord was not wont to speak analogously when instructing His disciples, but that which the words express plainly. Of such is the kingdom of God, or '*LITTLE CHILDREN,*' AS SUCH, belong to God's kingdom by His gracious determination."

Infants are to be trained up in the kingdom. Young people are under special obligations to early piety. It follows—1. That as all infants are in the kingdom of heaven, they are all in a state of salvation. 2. All infants dying in infancy are saved. 3. There is no unconditional reprobation. 4. Infants, as such, are legitimate subjects of baptism, because they belong to the kingdom.

#### STATE OF RELIGION IN CANADA.

On Sunday evening last the Rev. Charles Chapman, M.A., the pastor of Zion Church, Montreal, delivered an address to the members of his former church in Percy Chapel, Bath, on "The State of Religion on the Other Side of the Atlantic, with special reference to the work done and the manner of doing it." After some preliminary observations Mr. Chapman said with respect to religious parties in British North America they had there all the representatives of what we have here. They had Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and a few others. He might say the Presbyterians and Methodists were the most numerous; the Episcopalians represented a considerable proportion of the people. There were differences, they would observe, in organization, differences in name; but when they had got all this he had explained thereabouts all the difference. There was, he was happy to say, amongst all churches a feeling of brotherly kindness and consideration. It was a custom there for all denominations to meet together, and hold united services, and join in prayer and praise. He might say they called all places of worship there churches which did away with the distinction which at times might be unpleasant to their feelings. The Bible Society was most heartily supported by all. As to the style of the worship it differed a little from that which prevailed in this country. Amongst themselves (the Congregationalists) the order of service was just what they had that morning. The churches there were erected with great taste, and he thought no one could go to Montreal, for instance, without wondering at the ecclesiastical structures. He did not think in any city in the world in proportion to the population would they find such a collection of churches, which were costly and yet in accordance with architectural taste. The internal appearance of churches there was certainly in accordance with taste and comfort; indeed he sometimes thought they made things too comfortable. The churches of the United States surpassed those in some respects; some of them were wonderfully elaborate, and so completely furnished that they gave one the impression that the house of God was regarded by the people as the choicest place where they could sit. Then, also, in