

THE STATE OF RELIGION.

In giving the report of the Committee on the State of Religion, in our last number, we had to leave out, in consequence of want of space, the concluding part of the report, which embraced the recommendations of the Committee. As these form in reality the most important part of the report, we now give them, simply remarking that while the recommendations are specially addressed to Presbyteries, Ministers and Sessions, they should have a special interest for all. For this important matter, for the improvement of the State of Religion, in other words, for the spiritual advancement of ourselves and others, and for the glory of God and the honor of the Saviour, there is a responsibility lying on each of us.

RECOMMENDATIONS.—1. That the General Assembly repeat its request to Presbyteries and Sessions to give increasing attention to the State of Religion; to hold conferences and give addresses on the subject, and diligently use any means which may seem to them fitted under the blessing of God to produce increased interest and activity in the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. That Ministers be reminded of the importance of discriminating preaching, not only that which carefully distinguishes between truth and error, between the spirit of christianity and the spirit of the world, but that deals also with the prominent present necessities of the Church and of ordinary society; the importance of giving special discourses on such subjects as "Temperance," "Sabbath Observance," "Family Religion," "Steadfastness of Character and Life," "The Danger of Worldly Prosperity and Natural Enjoyment," and "A Firm Adherence to the truth as it is in Jesus, in opposition to prevalent Infidel Opinions."

3. That Presbyteries and Sessions be recommended to consider the propriety of occasionally holding continuous religious services, as a means of arresting the attention of the careless, and bringing those who are the subjects of grace more deeply under the influence of the truth; on the principle that continuous attention to any subject will naturally bring the mind increasingly under its power, or that a private christian may derive spiritual benefit from occasionally setting apart a longer period than usual for the study of the Scriptures and intercourse with God in prayer, and also on the ground that God has given encouragement in His Word to expect an increased manifestation of His salvation under a persevering use of the means of grace. Such continuous services might either embrace a short season preceding and following the usual time of observing the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, or be held at any other suitable season. The separated attention to the truth at such seasons, and the quiet and wholesome quickening which God might be expected to give, would form an important protection against the danger arising from the contact with the world, and also against that arising from the delusion and error so prevalent in society.

HISTORICAL RESEARCHES, BY REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, M.A.

The connection of the Rev. Mr. Campbell with the RECORD having ceased from the time of his appointment to the chair of Church History and Apologetics in the Montreal College, we are at liberty to call attention to the historical investigations which have for some time past occupied his leisure hours. All of them have lain in the direction of a critical and scientific connection of Sacred and Profane History, and have met with the approbation of distinguished British scholars in the departments of history