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THE STATE OF RELIGION.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE SYNOD OF TORONTO BY THE REV.
J. M. KING.

In opening, as this paper is designed to do, a *Conference on the State of Religion* within the bounds of the Synod, the great importance of the subject and the duty of bringing to its consideration our best powers of mind and heart, may be at once taken for granted. Here there is no difference of opinion; no room for any among Christian men. Anything else which can engage our attention as *members of this Court*, has an importance only subordinate and relative, has interest for us, only in the measure in which it appears likely to promote or injure the religious life of the church among us, and in connection therewith, to further or to obstruct the conversion of the world. It is alone the maintenance and furtherance of this life, in subservience to the glory of God, which justify the large expenditure of time and energy on the part of so many Christian agents. Our work, as ministers and elders, has meaning only in the measure in which this end is sought. Our life is redeemed from the charge of vanity and uselessness only in the measure in which it is gained. We can, therefore, engage in no exercise more suitable to the character in which we are met, or more important, than the prayerful consideration of the state of strength or weakness in which religious life obtains among us, of the causes which affect it injuriously, and of the means by which its depth and purity may be promoted.