

officiating Clergyman, he would be placed in a very false position, for while there are some at either extreme, with respect to whom there is little or no room left for doubt, there are many concerning whom he ought not to be required to pronounce any decided opinion. Of all the plans proposed, I believe that the best would be, the retention of our present service for the burial of communicants, and the authorisation of another less jubilant in its tones for non-communicants. I am aware of practical difficulties in such an arrangement, but I think they may be overcome, and that the objections are less serious than they are to the continuance of the present unsatisfactory state of things, which would only be partially remedied by the restoration of discipline, for that discipline would afford no relief, except in some of the most flagrant cases, whereas the distinction proposed is definite, and the most charitable interpretation might be given to the term "communicants," so as to include all who have not yet arrived at years of discretion. By the use of the lower office we should pronounce no sentence upon the departed, and since we do not believe that the future state is affected by the celebration or omission of the funeral rites, designed for the comfort and edification of the survivors, the deceased would sustain no loss, but the living would be benefitted by the warning, and by the declaration that something was wanting.

In ordinary cases we may use the service appointed, with a quiet conscience:—1st. Because we are forbidden to judge, and so long as there is any room for a weak hope we ought to exercise it; 2nd. Because the form does not profess to be specifically applicable to individuals, being appointed by the Church to be used for all who profess and call themselves Christians, if they have remained within her pale; 3rd. Because the use of a general form is attended with less injury than an extempore prayer or address, which must be regarded as applying to the particular person, and is therefore much more likely to mislead the bystanders, by its expressions of hope and confidence, which will naturally be uttered out of regard to the survivors, except in very extreme cases. We, however, need not be disquieted as our brethren are in England, for their difficulties arise in some measure from their obligations as Ministers of an Established Church, of which every inhabitant is by law a member with a right to claim their services. *Here* no one who is not