

my barns, and build greater ; and there will I bestow my fruits and my goods, and will say to my soul, Soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years ; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry." What ! will what a man stores up in a barn or even in a bank meet all the wants of his soul ? What will it all do to give the soul ease in the hour of death ? What will it do to supply merriment in the swelling of Jordan ? What will it do to slake the thirst when the tongue cleaves to the roof of the mouth ? The young ruler who came to our Saviour saying : " What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life ? " found that notwithstanding his great possessions, there was something lacking. His was a south land without springs of water. Take again :—

2. The situation of such families as have a good moral standing in society, and such as through culture and refinement are socially happy together. This is a lovely situation. This family might well be envied in many respects ; they are a model family. The parents and children live in social happiness. They discharge their relative duties to each other. They are naturally amiable, and enjoy the advantages of refinement ; and, with all this, their hospitality is unbounded. From such a home, the rich young ruler to whom we have already referred, most probably came. He was so amiable that we are told Jesus loved him ; and he so conducted himself that, in all sincerity, he said in reference to keeping the Commandments, " All these have I kept from my youth up. What lack I yet ? " We have no reason to doubt that as far as he was able to judge he had done so ; and possibly no neighbour could have charged him with any violation of the decalogue. This so far as it goes is commendable. Any family in such a situation enjoys a south land, and yet with all this may be destitute of springs of water. Is there prayer in the home ? Is God's Word being read ? Is there a secret chamber to which any of the members of the family delight to resort to wrestle with God ? Who among the members of that family are holding converse with heaven ?

It is recorded of the famous Whitfield that, being hospitably entertained by a family of this kind, when going about on one of his evangelistic tours, as he was leaving the house, he quietly and unobserved wrote on a pane of glass in the drawing room these words, with a diamond, " one thing thou lackest." It is said to have had the designed effect of leading that whole family to think about their spiritual welfare. Once more take :

3. The situation of all such as enjoy the outward advantages of the means of grace. This, again, may be a south land without springs of water. The situation here described may be that not only of the individual but of a congregation. Everything in the congregation may be in good shape outwardly. There may be no friction. The finances may be on a good basis and all the office-bearers may be attentive to duty. The preaching may be