

ings of a Christian country that the minds of men are so impregnated with the Bible, that a good character does and must prevail. Hence it is of the very utmost importance to avoid the first beginnings of what is wrong. Familiarity with bad things soon grows into a habit, habit becomes second nature; the spark increases into a flame, the flame destroys the building.

There are some who may read this paper to whom their character is literally everything: it is their only fortune; it is the very strength of their right hands; it is the only weapon which they can shoulder when they begin to carve their way through life.

"The man that steals my purse, steals trash: But he that robs me of my good name, Robs me of that which not enriches him, And makes me poor indeed."

To such I can only say: "Guard well your fortune; take care how you get the first bloom rubbed off it; look out for the beginnings of wrong; keep your weapon bright; it will stand you in good stead in the day of trial; it will, by God's grace, make you a happy and contented man as long as you live."

I have spoken of wordly things: I will now ask you to read one short verse of the Bible, from Psalm xi. 4: "The Lord is in his holy; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

Reader, these words tell us that other eyes beside those of our fellow men are on our characters. It is a fact, that with God, as well as with men, *character*, in rather an altered sense of the word, and as the evidence of true inward life, is *everything*.

A man's character is himself. What you like or dislike in him; what you admire or find fault with is not so much his look as his character. He may be very pleasant to look at, and yet very disagreeable to deal with; or he may have no features in all his countenance that you can admire, and yet his presence be acceptable. His character is himself. I do not mean to say that nice looks are not desirable, I know that they go a long way towards gaining acceptance for their owner, but after all, "manners make the man." We know that Satan himself can be transformed into an angel of light, and that a very Joseph can be concealed beneath a rough exterior.

If character, then, be so important in the eyes of men, what must it be with God? He regards the person of no man. When his eyes behold and his eyelids try the children of men, he regards not the strength of the arm, nor the power of the frame, nor the symmetry of the countenance, nor the loveliness of the complexion—but the character. There is not much difference, that I can see, in the way of stating the case for this world and for the next. A wise parent says to a child: "Keep a good character, my child, and you will always have a good place. If you lose your character, you are done for." He might stretch his thoughts beyond the little horizon of a short human existence: he might point to a world that is to dawn on us when this world is done with, and with great reverence he might add: "Keep your character pure, my child, by God's grace: regulate it carefully after God's word, and you will have a good place given you, through the

merits of your Saviour, in the world to come. But if you suffer your character, through Satan's wiles, to be spotted and defiled, you will be ruined eternally." Yes, it is quite as true of God as it is of man, that in his sight, character is everything.—*Sunday at Home.*

## For the Young.

### THE LITTLE SEED CELLS.

How neatly all the seeds are laid  
Within the ripening pod;  
How carefully the cells are made:  
This is the work of God.

The lining is not harsh or rough,  
But soft, or polished well:  
Each little seed has room enough  
Within its tiny cell.

How carefully the sides are closed  
Against the winds and rain;  
For if he left the seeds exposed,  
They would not grow again.

There's no disorder anywhere  
In what my Father does;  
He condescends to make with care  
The smallest flower that grows.

So children who would learn from him,  
Neat habits seek to gain,  
Or they will waste much precious time,  
And do their work in vain.

*Child's Paper*

### CONVERSATIONAL SKETCH OF THE QUEEN.

All good and loyal little boys and girls will no doubt like to hear something about our great and noble Queen. When she is addressed in writing by any of her subjects she is styled Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, but she is generally called, The Queen.

The Queen lives in England, where she has several beautiful palaces in different parts of the country. In London several wise and distinguished men assist her in governing her great empire.

Among the Queen's forefathers were the celebrated Alfred the Great, and William the Conqueror. The King who reigned before our Queen was her uncle, William IV. When he died, she was made Queen of the whole British empire (including all the British colonies).

The Queen had an excellent mother, who early taught her to love God. When her uncle died and she was told that she was a Queen, her first act was to kneel down and pray to God for his divine guidance.

The Queen has ever since ruled the empire so wisely, that she is greatly beloved by all her subjects. She has a number of children, who, from their high rank, are called Princes and Princesses. Her eldest son, the Prince of Wales, visited the British North-American Provinces in 1860, and was welcomed with great love and affection by all classes of the people.

In 1861 the Queen suffered a great loss in the death of her noble husband, Prince Albert the Good. All her subjects mourned with her.