

"of the people, by the people, and for the people." Republican institutions are a blessing or a curse according to the character of those who administer it. And so it is with our public schools. All depends at last upon competent and faithful teachers. If they fear God and love righteousness, they will inspire their pupils with the same spirit; if they do not, they will raise a godless generation, notwithstanding the reading of the Bible and the teaching of the Catechism. It is in the interest of the educational institutions of the several States, and indispensable to their well being that they should maintain a friendly relation to the churches and the Christian religion, which is the best educator and civilizer of any people.

Whatever defects there are in our public schools, they can be supplied by the Sunday schools which are multiplying and increasing in importance with the growth of the country; by catechetical instruction of the pastor which ought to be revived as a special preparation for church membership; and by private schools, academies and denominational colleges and universities. The Church is perfectly free and untrammelled in the vast work of education, and this is all she can expect. If she does her full duty, America will soon surpass every other country in general intelligence, knowledge and culture. Here is an opportunity for every man to become a gentleman, for every woman to become a lady, and for all to become good Christians. This is the ideal, but when will it be realized?

## II. — CRITICISMS ON SOME OF THE ABLEST REPRESENTATIVE PREACHERS OF THE DAY.

BY AN EMINENT PROFESSOR OF HOMILETICS.

NO. V.—CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON.

OF Henry Ward Beecher, lately, I said: "The greatest pulpit orator that the world ever saw—who might also have been the greatest preacher." The terms of this sentence I might almost precisely invert and say now of Charles Haddon Spurgeon: "The greatest preacher that the world ever saw—who might have been one of the greatest orators."

I, indeed, feel ready to express the deliberate opinion that, taken on the whole, Mr. Spurgeon must rank as not second to any preacher whatever in the long history of Christian preaching. The question is not a question of original and creative genius; it is not a question of the production of a few great masterpieces of pulpit eloquence; it is not a question of brilliant rhetorical, of imperial imaginative, gifts; it is not a question of overpowering immediate effects, brought about, perhaps, by happy capture of occasion, or by rare histrionic power in delivery. In the several respects thus suggested, many other men have been equal, some men have been superior, to Mr. Spurgeon; but who else ever began so early in life as he, and continued, without intermission, so long, to turn out sermons so good as his? If any one, then I