

THE CANADIAN METHODIST QUARTERLY.

VOL. I.]

APRIL, 1889.

[No. 2.

THE PERFECT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

The Eleventh Annual Lecture delivered before the Theological Union
of Victoria College, May, 1888.

BY REV. CHANCELLOR BURWASH.

II.

IN a preceding article we considered the higher form of Christian experience designated by St. John as "perfect love." While we found this experience most fully defined by St. John in his first epistle, we found that in the writings of St. Paul there were many passages which clearly implied this same higher state. Some of these passages bring Paul and John very near to each other in form of expression; *e.g.*, in Eph. v. 8, 9, we read as follows: "For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of the light; (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth,)" etc. This we at once compare with St. John's "walking in the light as He is in the light," as we may also, St. Paul's "being rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. iii. 17, etc.), with St. John's "dwelling in love." St. Paul also unites with St. John in ascribing this experience to the Spirit of God, and in making this indwelling Spirit the witness of our sonship. Compare 1 John iv. 13, "Hereby know we that we abide in