

For it is written in what we call character. The outsider sees something of it, and he sums up the general judgment or conscience of opinion that exists in the community concerning us, but the man himself may read more clearly, for he knows what are the things that he longs after, the prizes he seeks to grasp, the thoughts he has concerning life and life's good. If he desires only self-indulgence, then is he confined in the hell of the selfish; if he is constantly fearing, then his prison is that of the fearful and unbelieving; if his soul is ablaze with hate and envy, he is already in perdition.

On the other hand, if he has been seeking to bless and help others, and his thoughts towards his fellows are thoughts of justice and of mercy, his soul already hears the songs of the white-robed throng, and the waters of peace glide smoothly by. And when he passes from this life, it will not be so wonderful a change, for having gained the spirit in measure which will rule in the Celestial City, he will be at home there.

#### UNION ACROSS THE BORDER.

The spirit of Union must be in the air not alone in Canada, judging from the nearly unanimous adoption by the "General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," of the report of the committee on union with the Cumberland Presbyterian church. So the time is probably not distant when all the Presbyterians in the big republic—North and South, East and West, will stand within one united fold. Within a dozen years the previous lines of demarcation will be pretty well obliterated. A united Presbyterian church will do much to efface any remaining traces of sectional cleavage between North and South.

Our neighbors have big moral and social questions ahead. A united Presbyterian church will give important help towards their solution.

Writing interestingly, on "Academic Reminiscences," in the Toronto University monthly, Rev. Dr. MacNish makes reference to a number of well known public men, among others to President Lowden, ex-Mayor McMurrich, of Toronto, John King, K.C., and the late Principal Kirkland, of the Toronto Normal School. Of one gentleman who is well known beyond the bounds of the Dominion Dr. MacNish says: It remains for me now to refer to Professor Campbell, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, who has gained for himself an enviable reputation in the recondite and comparatively untrodden fields of ancient peoples and tribes and languages. The Hittites, the Basques, the Berbers, the original inhabitants of the Canary Isles, of Mexico and Chili—these are races on whose history and traditions he has shed a flood of light. He has no superior in the Church to which he belongs, for ripe and profound scholarship; for culture, breadth and originality; and for facile aptitude to anticipate and satisfy the requirements of every new time.

#### CHILDREN'S DAY FUND.

As is known to readers of THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN a collection is made in all our Sabbath Schools on "Children's Day." The amount collected is forwarded to the agents of the church. This fund is used (a) in advancing the interests of Sabbath School work throughout the church, (b) any surplus is given to the schemes of the church. Last year, however a number of special requests were made and granted. The synod of British Columbia asked for a grant of twenty-five dollars to each of its six Presbyteries to enable Conveners to visit the Sunday Schools. The Presbytery of Montreal asked for one hundred and fifty dollars to pay the salary of Mr. Burnie, the S. S. field worker engaged by the Presbytery. The Synod of the Maritime Provinces asked "for aid towards the holding of a summer school within the bounds of the Synod for the training of Sabbath School teachers and for other purposes in the furthering of Sabbath school work."

It is understood that these requests and others are being made for 1904-5. As it is very evident that it is unfair to ask all Presbyteries to contribute to special work in a few Presbyteries, where work is not more pressing, and as it is felt throughout the church that better work in overseeing and assisting our schools must be carried on in the Presbytery and by the Presbytery, the Synod of Toronto and Kingston at its last meeting forwarded the following resolution to the Assembly's Committee. "That instead of special grants from the funds of the G. A. S. S. committee to synods, and Presbyteries applying a pro rata grant according to the number of schools in the Presbytery be made annually to each Presbytery convector to assist in defraying their expenses in visiting and otherwise stimulating the S. S. work within the bounds." It is hoped that all commissioners to Assembly in the interests of Children's Day Fund and of Sabbath School work will see that any division of the Children's Day Fund be equitable and in the interests, not of a part of the work but of the whole work.

#### MR. BOK AND THE PREACHERS.

Mr. Edward Bok, of the Ladies' Home Journal, has once more written to The Outlook, as he did of yore, to show why young men don't go to church, and we do hope that this time nobody will get mad at him either for the disagreeable truth that he tells or for the disagreeable fallacies that creep into some of his conclusions. For the orthodox to get into a passion over him pleases Mr. Bok too well, and besides, it isn't becoming for the orthodox. The fact is that he has gathered up some true and interesting observations in his extensive question-asking of young men and preachers, but he went in his search too far a field, and so missed the fundamental explanation which lies so near home that every man can read it

in his neighbor's heart—and in his own—without the intervention of anybody's statistical reading glass. The big reason why most young men don't go to church is that they are not interested in spiritual things—don't want to be bothered with a sense of present obligation or questions of future destiny. They want to be free—some to make money uninterrupted, more to have a gay and irresponsible time of it in life. These reasons lie no deeper hidden than the surface of human nature, but they run through to the bottom. And yet saying this we must not leave the matter there. These callously indifferent young men are not all young men. There are some of another sort, thoughtful about the things that make for character and conscious of the eternal demands of righteousness. We have no doubt that manlier preaching in our pulpits would bring many such men to church, and it would also reach the consciences of many who, if ever saved, must somehow be made to think in spite of themselves. And Mr. Bok's plea for sermons that lay up close to a young man's life, deserves to be weighed on scales not only fair but grateful. We dislike to see ministers resent criticisms of weak preaching. It is pretty certain that preaching is never as good as it ought to be, and even though rude and ill-intended, denunciation of trivial, canting, parrot-like and unfelt sermonizing can never go amiss. It will shame out some weakness somewhere. The preacher who has few young men in his congregation, is likely not altogether to blame for the dearth, but still it isn't going to hurt him to be told that more ring and vitality in his sermons would increase his masculine hearing. Let him put them in and see.—The Interior.

#### Literary Notes.

A poem by the Poet Laureate holds the place of honour in the May Fortnightly. Then follows "The Leaf of Olive" by Maurice Maeterlinck. Many noted writers discuss political and military problems. Edward Dickey has an article on "The Anglo-French Compact and Egypt," Alfred Stead one on "Problems of the Far East," and Lieut.-Colonel Alsafer Pollock writes of "The Tactical Inefficiency of the Regular Army."

On literary topics we find articles on "A French King's Hunting Book," "Daddy Crisp," and "R. D. Blackmore and His Work." Leonard Scott, Publication Co., New York.

Blackwood's for May contains a lot of good reading matter of a miscellaneous nature. Among the subjects are the following: "A Trip up the Uganda Railway and across Lake Victoria Hyanza"; "The Story of Cawnpore"; "Reminiscences of the Duke of Wellington" and "Siam's Place in the Anglo-French Agreement." In Musings Without Method the chief topics are the death of Queen Isabella and Herbert Spencer's "Autobiography." The number is rounded out by some good verse and fiction. Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.