—*Fourth Check.*

What does this mean, if not that EVERY UNREGENERATE ADULT IS VIRTUALLY A BACKSLIDER, that he was once a VIRTUAL BELIEVER, in a PARDONED STATE, and, consequently a regenerate and adopted child of God.

JOHN WESLEY

expresses substantially the same opinion. Referring to his own case, he records the conviction that he did not sin away "THE WASHING OF THE HOLY GHOST," of which his baptism in infancy was the outward sign until he was about ten years of age. Being then removed from parental oversight, and, exposed to evil influences, in a boarding-school, he was led into wilful sin.— *Works, Vol.* 1. *Page* 98.

His godly father was so fully convinced of his childhood piety, that, he admitted him, at the age of eight years, to the Sacramental table. When about the same age, Wesley was attacked by smallpox, and, his pious mother's testimony, expressed in a letter to his father, who was absent, in London, is, "Jack has borne his disease bravely, like a man, and, indeed, like a Christian, without complaint."

To Wesley's own testimony, we add Dr. Whedon's digest of his belief, as expressed and implied in the "Notes upon the New Testament." Wesley "held 'the kingdom of God' to be 'the kingdom set up in the world,' (see his comment on Mark, 10. 14., and Matthew, 19. 14.,) that is the regenerate earthly