

reading through Gibbon's "Decline and Fall" once a year. That is by no means an exceptional case. I remember well a little hunch-back who looked after a Clyde steamer pier, who felt that he had satisfied one of his intellectual thirsts when I was able to lend him a copy of the famous "Inquiry" of Malthus.

11. *The Universal Interest in Religion.*

This intellectual way of looking at things is due undoubtedly to the influence of Presbyterianism. That great castle that John Knox hoped to build was erected on a much smaller scale than it would have been had his schemes not been thwarted by greedy and half-hearted nobles. But still every parish, from the time of the Reformation, had its school under the care of the Kirk Session, and it must be confessed that, while the religion had a certain harshness in it, that difficulty might be ascribed to the fact that those things were dwelt on which referred rather to the philosophy than to the warmth of religion. In the Theological world Scotland has produced thinkers rather than saints. The Confession of Faith is not only a statement of religion, it is a philosophy. The difference between the view of religion adopted by the English and by the Scotch may be judged, not imperfectly, by the first question in the catechism of the English and Scotch churches. The Shorter Catechism begins with the imposing question, "What is man's chief end?" The English catechism begins its study with the query, "What is your name?" A religion such as Calvinism, which believed that from all Eternity some men was destined to eternal life and some to eternal death, had of necessity a minor tone. It belied, as Froude has pointed out, its own severity by producing a home life of singular simplicity and beauty, but that overwhelming thought of the decrees of God lay like fate in a Greek drama upon the lives of countless numbers of God's people who thought that they could feel the warmth of the sun, but felt that they were compelled to deny its presence. The practical working out of Calvinism was a much more human and liberal thing than its intellectual statements might have led one to believe, but the