

of human disputation made to tremble, even as the sun and stars will quiver in a passing smoke ; and thus signify how profoundly grateful and loud in our thanksgiving we should be, not only for Christ's instructions, but for his miracles over his instructions placed on guard. Our debt to God is not only for his bestowment of the pearl of great price, but for his sure conservation, in a casket that cannot be broken, of what he has bestowed.

Once more, these extraordinary displays of power in the Christian miracles, to authenticate and hold for ever the message of the divine mind and will, illustrate the enduring interest of God in his human children ; and the crowning miracle of all, in the resurrection of Jesus, is a special assurance of our personal immortality. There is a general kind of immortality of truth and goodness, of which men sometimes speak, with no idea of an individual survival of the grave. It is an immortality in the future like that in the past ; an immortality in which the drop of our existence — which has been for a moment insulated for such achievements of honor and promise — sinks back to the sea from which it rose ; and we ourselves, after we are dead, subside to the condition we were in before we were born, — that unconscious state which David speaks of, when God saw his "unperfect substance." Such an immortality, for the human creature so unreal, has not seldom been represented in the speculations of those who cannot quite conceive that spiritual qualities should perish, or find their house in the grave ; and yet have no distinct belief, that those in whom these qualities have for a passing moment been incarnated and enshrined, shall ever transcend the floods of time, and plant their feet on the shores of eternity. But the immortality which Christ, by