

I. *Sinners are made bold in sinning by the fact that they seem to sin with impunity.* Eccles. viii: 11: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Pitt said: "I have no fear for England; she will stand till the day of judgment." Burke answered: "It is the day of *no judgment* that I dread."

II. *Power is not measured by noise*, nor energy and effectiveness by violence of demonstration. 1 Kings xix: 12. God was not in the stormy wind, the earthquake, the roaring fire, but in the still, small voice. The pendulum swings and flashes and ticks; but the mainspring, which every wheel and lever obeys, is absolutely noiseless and hidden. The mightiest powers of nature act, for the most part, in perfect silence.

III. *The human soul itself contains within itself* all the necessary elements of retributive penalty. Gen. xlii: 21: "We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul when he besought us and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us." Here is nothing but *memory, conscience, and reason*, yet what an exhibition and illustration of the self-retributive power of sin! Memory: "We saw the anguish," etc. Conscience: "We are verily guilty," etc. Reason: "Therefore is this distress come upon us." Let a soul go into the future state with a memory to recall, a conscience to accuse, and a reason to justify penalty as deserved, and what more is necessary to Hell! Hence Milton (*Paradise Lost*, I, line 254):

The mind is its own place, and in itself  
Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven!"

IV. *In a grand sense, souls converted to God are FOUND.* Luke xv: 24, 32. Sir Humphry Davy, when asked to give a list of his discoveries, carefully traced the history of those successful researches which made him the first chemist of his day, and then significantly added: "But the master discovery of my life was the *discovery of Michael Faraday!*" He found him, the untaught son of a smith, taking notes of his lectures, and yearning to study science. He took him into his laboratory, and there discovered that he had in his humble assistant one who would some day rival, if not eclipse, his master. Blessed work of *discovering men!*

V. "*That he might go to his own place.*"—Acts i: 25. How far may both heaven and hell be the result of spiritual affinity and the law of natural association? Here God ordains a mixed society, for the restraint of the wicked and the discipline and education of the righteous. There every soul follows the drift of its own nature and tendencies; and the separate association of the evil and the good is enough to constitute hell and heaven.