

HELL.

I WAS having my hair cut recently, when I spoke to the operator about his soul.

"I suppose," said he, "you believe in hell."

I replied that I did.

"Well," said he, "I do not. I do not believe there is a place of eternal torment, where people are punished forever because they have not come up to a certain standard ; besides, the word hell in scripture always means the grave and nothing else."

"No," I said, "you are mistaken. It should in many places have been translated the grave, but certainly not always."

"Do you think," said he, "that if my child did a wrong act I could torment him for ever for it?" Then, stepping back a couple of paces and waving his shears in the air, he continued, in a loud and excited tone, "Do you think God could put one of His children into hell-fire for ever and ever?"

"No," I replied, "I am very sure He would not, and if you are one of His children you are perfectly safe from such a fate, but if you are not, you have no claim whatever upon Him, and if you go to meet Him as a child of the devil, you can expect no mercy, and you will receive none."

This was a new thought for the barber, and he said no more. Possibly the Lord may use the word to arouse him from his false confidence, and to lead him to turn from his own thoughts and his own conclu-