

it after a fashion of his own; and, while embodying in it the type of religious thought and feeling which belongs distinctively to his time, has impressed on the whole work his own intellectual and moral image as completely as either of his illustrious predecessors did on his.

"Beginning with the death of the Seer, and his entrance into Paradise, the poem recounts the whole drama of earth's moral history, in the form of a narrative from the lips of Oriel, his guardian angel. Our limits will not allow us to go into any analysis of the action represented. We can only say that it exhibits a rich and creative imagination, an exquisite purity of taste, and a power of delineation that leaves little to be desired. In a poem of such length, here and there a feeble line or a questionable expression must almost necessarily occur. But nothing is vague and half-conceived, or indistinctly told. The language is simple and precise, rarely turgid, or strained, or marred with affectations of any sort. In the mode of conceiving and describing the scenery and life of the invisible world, there is a felicitous medium between the grossness of sheer materialism on the one hand, and the shadowy tenuity of an unreal spiritualism on the other. Aside from the brief and simple statements of the Scriptures themselves, we have read nothing, to our thought, at all comparable to these pictures of the intermediate state of departed souls. In the progress of the dramatic development of the plan, the interest is well sustained, and holds the unflagging attention of the reader to the last.

"If, along with a power to appreciate the charming language and the harmonies of verse, one has also a heart warm with devout affection and in quick sympathy with what is truly spiritual and divine, he cannot but find pleasure, absorbing and intense, yet altogether healthful, in this noble contribution to English sacred literature. No Christian heart, it would seem, can fail to be refreshed and made permanently better by finding itself borne up, as on mighty wings, into the highest regions of religious thought, and enabled to study, in one comprehensive view, the great scheme of eternal Providence for the recovery of the human race to holiness and life. We have felt, on laying down this volume, as if we had been for some time wandering through the bewildering loveliness of Paradise, breathing its vital air, communing with angels and the spirits of the just made perfect, and beholding the face and hearing the voice of the Blessed One whom the holy in all worlds adore. Such, we can hardly doubt, will be the experience of many who will read and re-read its quickening and inspiring pages."—*From a Review by the Rev. Roy Palmer, D.D., New York.*