

well calculated to soothe such irreligious feelings, it is not to be wondered at, that down to the rude break up of this system at the Reformation the old error had no special inducement to reappear. Men were pretty well content with a theory which practically abolished for Catholics endless torments, and for others—who cared?

(3.) But since the Reformation the popular theology has contributed very much to drive men to Restoration theories, so narrow and unchristian, so unphilosophical and intolerant has it been. Calvin, (*Instit.* lib. iii. c. xxv. § 6,) generally reckoned so hard and dogmatic, on this subject speaks modestly and reasonably enough. He declares it to be neither lawful nor useful to inquire curiously into the temporary state of the departed. He says in general of the saints that they are happy, comforted with the grace of Christ, and that they expect their crown and reward at the second advent; that they have a joyful expectation of the promised glory which is not to be bestowed till then. He is too positive indeed, when he at once casts the lot of the wicked with bad angels, without waiting for the Judge's sentence. But Calvin's sentiments are ultra-liberalism compared with the inflexible formula of the confession of Faith. Omitting some positions of a nature philosophical rather than biblical, which would press hard on the Annihilationists, and which would exclude many of the earliest Greek fathers from the number of the faithful, it affirms:—"The souls of the righteous being then [i. e. at death] made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none." chap. xxxii.ii. What wonder if such an extremely anti-scriptural series of propositions should drive men into