

Almighty God." Not yet persuaded that there is a wrath-side to the Almighty? Isaiah xxxiii.—and this passage perhaps you have never heard quoted; "And the people shall be as burnings of lime; as thorns cut up shall they be burned up in the fire. Hear ye that are afar off, what I have done, and ye that are near acknowledge My might." Not yet persuaded? I quote once more Isaiah, sixty-third chapter; "I will tread them in My wrath and trample them in My fury, and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment."

Does that quotation irritate you with me? I did not say it. "Thus saith the Lord." Not persuaded with what Samuel says, and Micah says, and Daniel says and Jeremiah says, and Ezekiel says, and Paul says, and Christ says, and Jehovah says? Not persuaded? Then I shall have to leave you to be persuaded by your own experience, when the truth of God's burnished throne shall flame on you. The fact is that all the Bible-holders in this audience by this time, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, are persuaded that there is a hell. How long shall it last? I will answer that question to-morrow night. How do you accord this with the love and mercy of God? I will answer that question to-morrow night. What do you think of the theories of Canon Farrar, and Dean Stanley, and Mr. Frothingham. I will answer that question to-morrow night.

This morning I have nothing to do with objections. I will simply state to you that God, fifty-six times, in the plainest, most unspeakable, stupendous, and overwhelming way, declares that there is a hell. It is burning now. It has been burning a long while. Yea, I will go further, and say there is a possibility, ay, there is a probability, that there are some in this house to-day, who will spend eternity in the lost world. Nothing but the hand of an outraged, defied, insulted long-suffering, indignant, omnipotent God keeps this whole audience this moment from sliding like one avalanche into it. O God, what a crisis!

III. Has not the time come for me to tell this people that, *though there is a hell,*

THERE IS NO NEED THAT ANY ONE SHOULD GO THERE.

I am going to announce to you that five or ten may escape—yea, a *hundred*—yea, a *thousand*—yea, **ALL**. You say, "Tell me just now." Oh, I do not want to

tell you the glad tidings too suddenly. I want to tell you that there is no more need that you go to that world than that you leap into the Cotopaxi. Tell the people, gentlemen of the press, tell them that I said there was no reason that anybody should go there; that if any goes there he is

A SUICIDE OF HIS IMMORTAL SOUL.

I turn to the same old book and I find out that the Son of Mary, who was the Son of God, the darling of heaven, the champion of the ages, by some called Lord, by some called Jesus, by others called Christ, but this morning by us called by the three blessed titles, Lord Jesus Christ, by one magnificent stroke made it possible for us all to be saved. He not only told us that there was a hell, but He went into it. He walked down the fiery steep. He stepped off the bottom rung of the long ladder of despair. He descended into hell. He put his bare foot on the hottest coal of the fiercest furnace.

He explored the darkest den of eternal midnight, and then He came forth lacerated, and sacrificed and bleeding, and mauled by the hands of infernal exorcism, to cry out to all the ages,—“I have paid the price for all those who would make Me their substitute. By my piled-up groans, by my omnipotent agony I demand the rescue of all those who will give up sin, and trust in Me.” Mercy! mercy! mercy! But how am I to get it? Cheap. It will not cost you as much as a loaf of bread. Only a penny! No, no. Escape from hell, and all the harps and mansions and thrones and sunlit fields of heaven besides in the bargain, “without money and without price.”

Now I ask you as common-sense men and women, if one has a choice between heaven and hell, and he may escape the one, and he may win the other, and he refuses to do so—I ask you, as men and women of common-sense, if he does not deserve to be lost? He does. You know he does. Oh, by the free salvation of Christ, by the voices of the eternal groan which we have heard this morning, I beg all this audience to flee the wrath to come. Do not, my friend, make it a controversy between you and me; it is a controversy between you and God. Do not go away talking of what I said; go away talking of what God said.

My dear brother, my dear sister, you may shuffle this whole subject off your attention, but that does not change the