

## NOTE.

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As the word "everlasting" is the hinge upon which the doctrine of "endless punishment" is made to turn, I would refer the reader to a few texts where the word is used in reference to things of a limited duration, to show that the term is not good evidence in proof of a doctrine so unreasonable as this confessedly is. In Gen. xvii. 8, xlviii. 4, xlix. 26, the land of Canaan is called an "everlasting" possession to the Jews, and yet the Jews have not owned a foot of land there for many generations. In Numb. xxv. 13, the priesthood of Aaron is called an "everlasting priesthood," and yet it passed away when Christ established the new priesthood. Heb. vii. 11, 12. See also Lev. xvi. 34.

It is well known that learned Theologians of all sects, allow that the words "everlasting and eternal" are frequently used in a limited sense. Whatley, Cruden, Prof. Stuart, and a host of others, all believers in the dogma of endless punishment, agree in defining these words to mean "a long and indefinite period of time." No reliance, then, can be put upon this "indefinite" adjective, in proof of a dogma, so abhorrent to all the better feelings and instincts of our souls!

We now call upon the advocates of the doctrine in question, to present *one text*—only *one*—from the Old or New Testament, upon which they are willing to rely for proof of the very popular dogma of "endless punishment," in an *open* and *free* investigation of the subject!

Gentlemen: you, who believe and teach that God, the Creator and Judge, will cast off a portion of His own creatures to suffer endless torment for the sins of this short life, should know that very many of your own dear flocks—souls entrusted to your keeping—are seriously questioning the truth of the doctrine you consider so essential to a good life, and salvation in eternity; and, thousands of them disbelieve the doctrine in  *toto* . Is it not your duty, therefore, to come out, and in an *open* and *free* public meeting, where all doubters and inquirers may examine your positions, and criticise your arguments, show that the doctrine in question is taught in the Scriptures? In the name and on the behalf of more than one thousand souls in the city of Halifax, I call upon you to put your finger upon the Book, Chapter, and Verse, where this dogma of eternal punishment for the sins of this life is clearly taught! If you heed not this call, and your doctrine should finally prove true, souls will be required at your hands in the day of Judgment!