

SERMON.

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment."—MATTHEW, xxv. 46.

THE doctrine of the salvation of all—irrespective of merit or principle—is, in my humble conception, as untair as it is illogical and untenable. That it is the mere vagary of the fancy, and the evidence of that pride natural to the human heart, I think I shall be able to show. I ask of you, therefore, kind reader,—and I feel confident I shall receive it,—your free and uninterrupted attention through the following pages. This I solicit, as it is necessary to the realization of the subject I am about to discuss.

The first question I shall endeavour to answer for you is the very natural one—"What is Universalism?"

Now, brethren, that is about the only question connected with the subject I have never been able satisfactorily to answer for myself. What do the Universalists believe? is a question which they themselves cannot answer—at least they never have answered. Individuals will give you, most glibly and nimbly, what they themselves believe in the great matter of salvation, but does *that* express the voice of the body calling itself *the Universalist Church*? Most assuredly not. Nor do those things called individual opinions in any Church carry the slightest authority with them, nor can they be taken in any measure to express the Church's opinion. There are doctrines preached by ministers of our own Church to which I by no means subscribe—opinions held which I repudiate, and books written by ministers of the Church which are fit only for the fire; the authoritative writings of any Church are those of her standards, and of these Universalism has none. One man saith he believeth all things; another, who is weak, believeth nothing.