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## "HELL" NOT IN THE BIBLE.

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SHEOL—HADES—TARTAROS—GEHENNA.

THOUGH the dogma of endless woe seems to many people unreasonable, and as a foul blot on the character of God, there are many passages of Scripture that seem to teach the doctrine; and it is impossible, with their education and traditional reverence for the Bible, to settle down in a more comfortable belief, till these passages have been explained so as not to favor the unsavory dogma which they are supposed to teach.

Prominent among these passages are those that speak of hell. For some years after we had come to see the unreasonableness of the doctrine of never-ending punishment, the passages that had been urged in its favor stood in the way of a complete change of our opinion on this subject. Nor did we find entire satisfaction in respect to some of these texts, till, by a study of the original languages of the Bible, we settled the matter for ourself. Since that time, not a doubt on this subject has obtruded itself on our mind for a single moment. The strongest desire we now have is to convince others, and to lift a load from their minds which they ought no longer to carry.

We feel deeply on this subject, not only because the doctrine in question was once the occasion of much unhappiness to ourself, casting a blight over the best years of our youth, unfitting us for both study and work, and seriously threatening life; but, sadder still, because a beloved mother was brought to the grave in the most shocking manner by her faith in this dreadful doctrine. After five long and wretched years of wild insanity, she imagined herself in hell, and expressed great surprise that we did not see the flames about her! She refused to eat; and all the nourishment she took during the fifty days of her sickness before death came to her relief was four spoonfuls of liquid food. Any attempt to conceal the food by mixing it with the water she craved was in vain, as she utterly refused all such preparations. Her screams at times were heartrending. Her apparent suffering was indescribable; though she may have suffered less than she appeared to do. These things occurred nearly seventy years ago; but they are as fresh in our memory as if they were of recent date. They have furnished us a strong motive to make all possible effort to remove from the church and the world the cause of