

and that he delighted to dwell upon, did not blind him to the terrible vengeance that a God of infinite holiness has in store for the profane and wilful transgressors of his law. This great tender-hearted man, who had such heaviness and sorrow of heart, because of the unbelief of his countrymen, that he would almost have imperilled his own salvation for theirs, believed that the perdition of ungodly men was as certain as the salvation of the righteous: that it is not only in the natural and material world, "that lightnings and thunders roll and rend or in the lower heavens that the furies seem to play," but that these are but faint symbols of the day of wrath, of the tribulations and anguish, that await every soul of man that doeth evil. Keble in his *Christian Year*, asks the question:—

"And is there in God's world so drear a place,
Where the loud bitter cry is raised in vain?
Where tears of penance come too late for grace,
As on the uprooted flower the genial rain?"

And this is his answer:

"Tis ever so: the sovereign Lord of souls,
Stores in the dungeon of his boundless realm,
Each bolt, that o'er the sinner vainly rolls,
With gathered wrath the reprobate to whelm.

Will late remorse,
Recall the shaft the murderer's hand has sped,
Or from the guiltless bosom turn its course?
Then may the embodied soul not fear to meet,
The God whom here, she would not learn to love."

This negative theology has been tried, and found wanting. It is a travesty upon religion. It proceeds upon the assumption that men need not atonement for sin, and that heaven is the reward of works, and not of grace. The little dainty sermonettes and moral essays that are now read from certain pulpits, have nothing in common with Apostolic or Reformation preaching. The great Dr. Chalmers tried this style in the earlier stages of his ministry. He expatiated on the meanness of dishonesty, the villiany of falsehood and the despicable acts of calumny—upon all those deformities of character which awaken the natural indignation of the