

like some unpleasant things of this life—it is most solemnly true. A few years only may be allotted to you on earth to labour, to eat and drink and sleep, to enjoy and struggle, to sin and hide your sin, and then you may experience what is meant by perdition, and utter “destruction from the presence of the Lord.”

There dwells in all minds of any degree of culture, an idea of the fitness of things. You perceive how prisons are fit places for thieves and murderers, and quiet, happy homes the suitable abodes of the honest and good. You profess to know what is proper for you in public and social life among your fellow-creatures. Now, whether you can see it or not at present, it may turn out to be the most fit and proper thing at the end of your life that you should experience the “terrors of the Lord” in perdition. I say it may prove to be most fit and proper, considering what your heart is towards God; so that the awful possibility of your being sent there will not be more awful than appropriate and wise.

It is hard for you, perhaps, to think how such an eternal catastrophe can come to pass. Probably it is *very* difficult; yet events do come to pass which once we could scarcely have imagined. Those who were ruined by the first earthquake would have once said that such a destruction was contrary to their experience and beyond conception. Few would have supposed, when looking on a gentle, playful, loving child that he would become that coarse, savage, detestable creature doomed to the gallows for his crimes. Thus, in the course of things, there are at work reasons and causes for the most unimaginable disasters. And whether or not you can exactly see how you shall become changed from an active—perchance, cheerful—inhabitant of our beautiful world to being an inhabitant of outer darkness—the abode of all horrors—I say again, it is very possible that you may learn the awful reality by personal experience. And to assist you to come to the same conclusion, I will state a few plain truths.

1st. *Some terrible things are said of God in the Bible.*

The *knowledge* which God has of us is something appalling. “All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom