

our reverence for the Father of lights, if we hearken not to the voice of his word, in all that we believe concerning his character and work ? "To the law and to the testimony ; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

We may, however, here observe, that though we bring this question to be tested by the scriptures, as our sovereign standard, yet we are not afraid of the result of an appeal to sound reason. There is no unwillingness on the part of the defenders of this Bible doctrine, to meet those who advocate universalism at the bar of reason, and listen to its voice as far as it has a right to speak. But the ultimate appeal must be to the word of God. Far above, and after all, the voice of the Almighty himself, in the scriptures, must be heard ; and by the right interpretation of these Holy Oracles, must this question be settled.

WHAT THEN SAY THE SCRIPTURES ?

In reply to this question, we have not the slightest hesitancy in saying, that the doctrine which we advocate, stands upon the very face of the book of God, and pervades the entire scope of the divine word. It is there set forth with the clearness of a sunbeam, and in almost every variety of utterance.

1.—The doctrine of future punishment is frequently expressly stated in the scriptures. The most superficial reader of his Bible, cannot fail to observe how numerous and emphatic God's utterances are upon this doctrine. "He that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." "These shall go away into everlasting punishment : " "Cast into everlasting fire : " "To whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever : " "To whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever : " The word fairly abounds with such startling imagery as the following "lake of fire," "bottomless pit," "place of torment," "outer darkness," "worm that dieth not, and fire that is not quenched." Such is a mere specimen of the appalling descriptions which we find in the Bible, regarding future punishment.

It is sometimes said that these threatenings and punishments were peculiar to God's government, during the old economy, but that Christ introduced a milder system—a reign of love. But what is the fact ? The New Testament is the part of the sacred scriptures, where the most pointed declarations are found, upon this awful theme ; and of