

THE FINAL BATTLE.

You say there is nothing to do away with these iniquities ; you cannot resist them. Stupid man, what does my text say ? " The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." These gates shall be prostrated. The Bible utters its denunciation against sin, but the piety of to-day is such a namby-pamby sort of thing you can't even quote the Scripture without making somebody restless. As long as this holy imbecility reigns sin will laugh us to scorn. Now, allusion to sin must be in a tone apologetic ! I put my foot down on all the conventional rhetoric on this subject and tell you plainly that unless you give up your sin your doom is sealed. In the besiegment of the gates of hell we want no soft sentimentalists, but men who are willing to give and take hard knocks. The gates of Gaza were carried off, the gates of Thebes were battered down, the gates of Babylon were destroyed and the gates of hell shall be prostrated. A Christianized printing-press shall be rolled up as the chief battering-ram and there will be a long line of aroused pulpits which shall be the assailing fortresses, and God's red-hot truth shall be the flying ammunition of the contest. Then the sappers and the miners will lay the train beneath the foundations of sin and at just the right time the Lord, who leads the fray, will cry " Down with the gates," and the explosion beneath will be answered by all the trumpets of God on high celebrating the universal victory.

GOD WILL FORGIVE.

There may be in this house one wanderer who would like to have a word calling her back, and I can't sit down till I have uttered that word. I know that God will have mercy on the wanderer who would like to come back to the Lord of infinite love. One cold Christmas night a poor girl left her father's house. She was attracted by the warmth and light of a church one night years after and entered. The minister was preaching of Him who was wounded for her transgressions and bruised for her iniquities. She went out and returned to her old home. If her mother was glad to get her back God was glad to get her back. There she lay dying, and just before the moment of her departure she wept and prayed that the mercy of God would alight upon her soul. And there she lay upon the bosom of her pardoning Jesus. So the Lord took back one whom the world rejected.