

tures, the true sense thereof neither you nor I shall know, till death is swallowed up in victory. But this I know,—better it were to say, it had no sense at all, than to say it had such a sense as this. It cannot mean, whatever it mean besides, that the God of truth is a liar. Let it mean what it will, it cannot mean that the Judge of all the world is unjust. No scripture can mean that God is not love, or that his mercy is not over all his works: that is, whatever it prove beside, no scripture can prove predestination.

THE APOSTLE JOHN.

BY REV. S. OSGOOD, D.D.

Too often the amiability of this apostle has been celebrated at the expense of his manliness, and he has been held up to admiration too exclusively as a character of passive good-will. Sometimes this view becomes almost a caricature, and he who so tempered energy with kindness, the sun of thunder who became the disciple of love, is portrayed almost as an effeminate sentimentalist. His nature was full of warmth, and this was made a genial flame instead of a devouring fire. The longer he dwelt with Jesus, the more effectually his nature was refined, and his heat tempered and exalted into that mild and glowing love of God and man which emanates from his Gospel and Epistles, into that heavenly communion of which the Last Supper was an undying pledge. If ever in maturer years any trace of his early impatience appears, and the harmony of his spirit for a moment yields,