

who can tell that blessedness, let us strive to get a foretaste of it.—Prayer is the key that opens heaven. Reader, let us pray till heaven opens to our view, and let us never lose sight of “The Way, the Truth, and the Life,” even CHRIST.

### ADDENDA.

After the sermon is a note, in which it is said that “*the threatenings of the Pentateuch were all of a temporal character.*”

If it pleased God to test the obedience of his creatures by what would have the greatest effect on their minds in that stage of human existence, He was able, by his Holy Spirit, to sanctify that obedience to their everlasting good. And if in our days, mankind were offered fine houses and rich possessions in reward for their obedience, we may fairly conclude that many would have the appearance, at least, of being very religious, who at present are looking after houses and lands without any reference to religion, or peradventure something in direct opposition to it.

It is not for us to vindicate the ways of God to man; rather ought we to say in the depth of humility, “even so it pleased thee, O heavenly Father.”

That a future state was looked for, in the old dispensation, is easily proved, and rewards and punishments connected with it; but that God should reserve the full developement and illustration of Immortality, and its consequences, to the advent of his beloved Son, who become “the first fruits of them that slept,” is a dispensation to which we must humble ourselves in the dust, being, perhaps, not permitted even to “desire to look into.”

I have laid aside the sermon, and have no other book either for or against Universalism. But I have heard some of my friends,\* whom I sincerely esteem, observe, “that God is too merciful to punish the sins of a short life with *everlasting* punishment.” That is to say that if God did inflict everlasting punishment he would not be merciful.

An apparent want of mercy in God, was, at the time of the French Revolution, made an argument for Atheism. I speak from personal knowledge. The miseries of human life, especially great calamities, such as earthquakes, eruptions of Volcanos, inundations, one of which

\* Some have proposed the text—“As in Adam all died, so in Christ shall all be made alive,” which I believe they will find refers merely to the resurrection of the body.