

FEEL that hell is eternal? And even if one came to tell you that he had felt the beginning of it, and saw no shore to that lake of fire, you would forget it all, as you do now. "If they believe not Moses and the prophets, neither would they be persuaded though one rose from the dead," said Jesus, (Luke xvi. 31,) who knows us well. You are called on to believe the testimony of God; and if you choose to doubt His word and thus call Him a liar, do you think He is bound to do more for you? If the rich man were sent to this world, and were he telling how he saw Lazarus afar off in Abraham's bosom, with an IMPASSABLE GULF BETWEEN! and were he to take for his text, "not a drop of water to cool my burning tongue!" all would fail to move the man who proudly, irrationally, daringly refuses to believe God, who sent His Son to testify to us, that there "Their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

"WE MUST BE SAVED!" We dare no longer sit at ease. Let the words of our God and Saviour be sufficient to arouse us to flee from wrath. The angel testified of the coming shower to Lot at Sodom, but did not show him one spark of it before it came. The Holy Ghost does not take to the margin of that awful gulf in order to awaken it; we never once read of any who saw the flame of that hell, though we read of one who, after his conversion, saw Paradise and the Third Heavens. No, the Holy Ghost presses on the sinner's attention the testimony of Moses and the Prophets, and the Apostles, and the Saviour: and thus you must learn to realise something of that awful world to come, something of that abiding wrath, something of that intolerable, unutterable, never-ceasing, never-ending woe, which a lost soul must bear!

GLASGOW, 1863.

A PRAYER OF THE SECOND CENTURY.

It may be interesting to our readers to meet with a prayer used in the second century, and to see how exactly it corresponds with the religious sentiments of pious men in the present day:—

"In faith, I confess and adore Thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Creator of angels and of men, have mercy on thy creatures!

"In faith, I confess and adore Thee, O invisible Light most holy Trinity, and one God! Creator of light and Destroyer of darkness, expel from my soul the darkness of sin and ignorance, and enlighten my soul at this moment, that I may be able to pray unto Thee after thy good pleasure, and obtain from Thee my request. Have mercy upon a great sinner like me.

"Heavenly Father, true God, Thou who hast sent thy beloved Son to seek the lost sheep, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee; accept me as Thou didst accept the prodigal son, and clothe me in the primitive dress of which I have been deprived, and have mercy upon thy creatures, and upon me a miserable sinner.

"Son of God, true God, who didst descend from the bosom of the Father, and tookest a body upon Thyself in the holy Virgin for our salvation, who hast been crucified, and buried, and raised up from the dead, and hast ascended up into heaven, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee; remember me as Thou didst the thief on the cross, when Thou shalt come into Thy kingdom. Have mercy upon thy creatures, and upon me, a great sinner.

"Spirit of God, who didst descend in the river Jordan, and hast enlightened me with the baptism of thy holy fountain, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee; purify me again with thy fire divine, as Thou didst purify the Apostles with the tongue of fire. And have mercy upon thy creatures, and upon me, a miserable sinner.

"Christ, thou living fire, kindle in my heart the fire of thy love, which Thou hast scattered upon earth, that it may consume the uncleanness of my heart, and purify my conscience; and kindle in my intellect the light of thy knowledge. And have mercy upon thy creatures, and upon me a miserable sinner."