

recipients of eternal felicity through the instrumentality of these clergy who are strong advocates of eternal burnings in a future state; thus the prisoner repents in confinement, the clergy think his wicked deeds are pardoned, while they believe on the other hand, if the most virtuous and moral man be precipitately launched into eternity that his case is rather dangerous, because he had not time to repent. therefore let us give God the glory for he is able and willing to grant repentance to all men.

*Question.* You use every effort to evade that which you accuse your opponents to be guilty of; I mean the second birth; you say they will tell us that we must become new creatures, and then leave us to our reflections how this is to be effected: if you can throw any new light upon this subject I am sure it would be very gratifying to me.

*Answer.* I am fully persuaded in my own mind that it is out of the power of man to work any radical change in himself, in order to become a new creature. I will therefore refer you to the 3d Chapter of Malachi and read for yourself, where the prophet says,—“who can abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth, for he is as a refiner’s fire and fuller’s soap, and he shall sit as a refiner & purifier of gold and silver. & he shall purge the sons of Levi as gold and silver that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.” Now I would ask, who sits as a refiner’s fire and fuller’s soap? you must of necessity say Christ Jesus the Lord. What does a refiner’s fire do? It does not destroy the precious metal but makes it more pure. What does fuller’s soap do? If dirt adheres to any substance whatever, it makes it clean. This is the baptism that

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