

Finally—This sentence shall plunge them into the everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Such, my brethren, are the plain and explicit terms, in which Jesus Christ himself couches this appalling decision,* nor can we by the expedienies of sophistry, or the verbiage of false criticism, or the mysteries of physiology, or the chicanery "*of science falsely so called*," either alter the meaning of this sentence, or escape from its power. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? These may go on darkening "*counsel by words without knowledge*." They may discover their ignorance, by attempting to display their knowledge, and convince us that they are pedants, while they are trying to persuade us that they are scholars." "Unreasonable and wicked men" may remove the ancient landmarks, and set up false beacons of their own construction, which may lead the unwary and the thoughtless, into the vortex of immorality and infidelity here; and thence into the gulf of endless misery hereafter; but the word of God shall endure for ever. He spoke and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast. He who made all things out of nothing, can alter the laws, and change the constitution of nature; yea, and he will do it, for there shall be "*a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth shall pass away; and there shall be no more sea*." Again, these bodies which are "*sown in dishonour*," shall be "*raised in glory*;" the natural body shall become a spiritual body; and the corruptible body shall become an incorruptible and immortal body, and death shall be swallowed up in victory.

Surely then, if God can communicate to the bodies of the Just, a capacity for enjoying everlasting happiness, he can, with equal facility, impart to the fire of hell, an endless duration; and to the bodies of the damned, a power to sustain, the agony and torture it inflicts. The voice of God says it shall be so—our consciences cry aloud, and declare that it is so—and the damned in their weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, say unto us this evening, "*Deceived, God is not mocked; the wicked shall be turned*;" every transgressor shall be plunged into the fire that can never be quenched; and all impenitent sinners, shall have their part in the lake, that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

While contemplating the doom of the wicked, a melancholy feeling comes upon my soul; and an undefinable sensation grieves my spirit and agitates my heart. I see hell, in the form of an immense prison, emerging from the deep—deep ocean of God's wrath, as the apostle "*saw the beast rise up out of the sea*;" I see dark heavy

* Matt. xxv. 41.