

of misery. As Heaven would be no Heaven if God did not there manifest His love, so hell would be no hell if God did not there display His wrath. It is the presence of God which gives everything virtue and efficacy—without which there can be no life, no sensibility, no power. God is therefore Himself present in hell to see the punishment of those rebels against His government, that it may be adequate to the infinitude of their guilt; His fiery indignation kindles, and His incensed fury feeds the flames of their torments, while His powerful presence and operation maintains their being, and renders all their powers more acutely sensible, thus setting the keenest edge upon their pain, and making it cut most intolerably deep. He will exert all His Divine attributes to make them as wretched as the capacity of their being will admit.” He then goes on to describe the duration of this work; calls to his aid all the stars, sand, and drops of water; makes each tell a *million of ages*,—and when all these ages have rolled away, goes over the same number again and again, and so on *for ever!*

Depend on it, Doctor, no unprejudiced reader of the Bible will ever find in it such horrible ideas—it *does not* contain them. The Doctor continues:—

“Would it occur to him even to guess that ‘everlasting punishment’ meant either the infliction of pain for a short period, or the annihilation of the criminal, whereby he would escape punishment altogether?”

In reference to the term “annihilation,” we wish it understood that those who hold that “DEATH is the wages of sin,” as God says, instead of eternal life in torment, as *men* say, do not use it in speaking of the final punishment of the wicked, nor has the Doctor a right to make such free use of it when speaking of *their* views. Our Saviour was pleased, on a certain occasion, to turn water into wine; and had He been pleased to change the wine back to water there would have been no annihilation in the case, but a simple changing of the elements. So God created man, dignified man, out of the dust of the earth; and should He be pleased to turn him back to his mother element none should speak of the act as annihilation. It would be simply the *execution* of the sentence, “DUST THOU ART, AND UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.” Now for the Doctor to talk of such a one “escaping punishment altogether” seems to us very unreasonable. The laws of this, and perhaps of every other country,