

# CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."  
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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## PURGATORY.

[When Gavazzi was lecturing in England he gave a lecture on purgatory, a portion of which is copied as follows:]

Is Purgatory scriptural? No. I do not find in the Old and New Testament any text in support of this cruel and brutal doctrine of Purgatory. Really, the Roman Catholics think that many texts in the Bible are in support of this dogma; but no, except in the Roman Catholic way—namely, by great alteration in the word and in the true sense of the Word of God.

But I select the two capital texts upon which the Church of Rome founds her dogma of Purgatory—this word preached by Christ in the Gospel—"Consent with your enemy while you are in the way, because, if not, he shall put you into prison till you have paid the last farthing." The Church of Rome says this text proves purgatory. No. First, because Christ said, "Consent with your enemy." But God is not our enemy, and therefore the text in support of Purgatory is overthrown. Second, Christ says, "Consent while you are in the way, otherwise you shall remain till you have paid the last farthing." We are in debt, we are enemies; but will God put us after death in purgatory? If I am put into purgatory because I did not consent with my enemy when I was living, I shall pay my debt, not to my enemy, my adversary, but to God. Is not that the sense of the text?—therefore it proves nothing for the dogma of purgatory. Take the text as it was preached by Christ; it is only in order to preserve peace, and love among Christian brethren. In this sense Christ said, Consent with your enemies and your adversaries, because I will not have you among my sons, or have any one among my sons who creates discord; and therefore this good and really divine word of Christ is only to preserve charity among us, and not to prove the cruelty of God against us after life.