

most farthing? No. It has been said*—and of *them*, with such a fear of death before their eyes, it is emphatically true—that “as long as the grave exists they do penance their whole lives.”

In preaching upon the subject of Purgatory at this time I do not address myself to those my fellow Christians. That would be going out of the way of my duty, which is to minister to you. My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is, that their eyes may be opened to understand that the blood of Christ is the true, the only Purgatory, and that it cleanseth from all sin! Much less do I desire to send you, my brethren, home triumphing over them, and vaunting your own exemption from their errors. I would to God that you would rather consider how vastly better you ought to be than you are, with all the light and all the privileges you enjoy. For when we look at them, and see their unity, their obedience, their zeal in propagating what they think the true faith, their constancy and earnestness in using the means of grace which they possess, ought we not to feel ashamed?—No, far be proud, boastful thoughts from us. This is Advent Sunday, with its solemn warnings that the coming of the Lord, judgment, heaven and hell are drawing nigh. It becomes us, then, to be in *earnest* about our fitness for meeting our Lord—to have our hearts filled, not with proud thoughts of fancied superiority, and with bitter controversy, but with a deep sense of the reality of things unseen, with lowliness and meekness, and with a yearning love for all mankind.

That love obliges you to be “always ready to give, to every man that asketh you, *a reason of the hope that is in you.*” It is, therefore, your duty to know the truth, as it is my duty to guard you against error. And as the Romish doctrine of Purgatory has lately been publicly vaunted among us, on the platform and in the press, as reasonable, scriptural and catholic, nay more—strange as the language was—as “a beautiful

*Rev. Dr. Cahill's Lecture on Purgatory.