

and the cares and turmoils of this mortal state brought to a close.

"It is a land of shadows : yea the land
Itself is but a shadow, and the race
That dwell therein are voices, forms of forms,
And echoes of themselves."

In discussing this question we shall first of all glance at the teachings of the Old Testament, as they would present themselves to any person in whose hands the book was placed, who might be totally unacquainted with its history and purpose. Secondly, consider some extraneous facts that may help us to a better understanding of the question; and, thirdly, consider the light which Christianity throws upon the whole subject.

I.—THE TEACHINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AS THEY WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY A STRANGER IGNORANT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN, &c.

That there are a number of passages in the Old Testament Scriptures which would appear at first sight to lead to the conclusion that the grave is the final end of man's career, that there is no life beyond the tomb, and that such reward as virtue brings, or punishment entailed by vice, will be limited entirely to the present state of existence, it would be mere folly to deny. But then what we have to ascertain is, what is the general tenor of the teachings of the book, and whether we are quite sure that even these passages, which seem to shut out the light of immortality, are not susceptible of some other interpretation than that which would be put upon them by the mere superficial glance of a common-place reader. For instance, if in the same books in which these passages occur that seem to point to death as the final end of man, there are others which unmistakably set forth the doctrine of a future life, then it is quite clear that the meaning that would appear on the surface of one or the other must be incorrect. For, bear in mind, it is not a question of contradiction between the teachings of men who lived at different times and under entirely different circumstances, but an inconsistency on the part of the same man, which it would be absurd to suppose could exist even in the case of a person of very