

II. THERE IS A RELATION OF PREPARATION.

Here, and here only, can we prepare for the future. We are taught:

1. The nature of the future world.
(a) Eternal life. (b) Eternal death.

2. The need of preparation. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "The wages of sin is death."

3. The nature of that preparation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." "Behold *now* is the accepted time; behold *now* is the day of salvation."

III. THERE IS A RELATION OF CHARACTER.

As we are here, such we will be there, in the essential features of character. Here there may be change. A wicked man may become righteous. There, there will be progression, but no change in the elements of character.

III. THERE IS A RELATION OF REWARDS.

1. For sin and unbelief there will be punishment.

2. For faith and Christian service there will be reward.

If we want to enter heaven we must prepare for it *here*, and should do it *now*. P. H. M.*

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

The Curse of Gigantic Monopolies.

For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him.—Isa. lvii: 17.

"TRUST" is a very simple word. But behind it lurks the most gigantic of monopolies. The air is now filled with dust by the operations of "coal trusts," "sugar trusts," "iron and steel trusts," "rubber trusts," "oil trusts," etc., all attempting to conceal from the public their real character. This is a "trust": Some, or a majority, of the great leading manufacturers of a staple article, tired of competing with one another for the patronage of the public, and wishing to obtain a more perfect control of the great interests in which they are engaged, come together and form a company or "trust," transfer all their respective individual interests in the particular business to the "company," composed of themselves, and take in return a proportionate amount of common "stock." The trust thus formed becomes a close and gigantic monopoly, whose first step is to crush out, by underselling, all competitors who have refused or not been allowed to enter it. Its second step is to raise the price of its products just as high as a suffering public will bear. It then stalks through the land, seeking whom it may devour. Such is the

"Standard Oil Trust," whose last reported act of cannibalism is the wrecking of the Greenwich Point Oil Refinery of Philadelphia, and the enforcing of its sale to themselves at their own price.

The Western Union Telegraph Company is not known as a "Trust"; but by its recent consolidation with its only rival, the Baltimore and Ohio, it has advanced rates from 50 to 100 per cent., and its gross revenues for the quarter ending December will be the largest known in its history. Meanwhile a suffering public may whistle, while stockholders fatten and the power of a single man grows till it outweighs States and Legislatures.

The opportunities in the United States for the vast and unrestrained accumulation of wealth in the hands of individuals and corporations give rise to many evils not discernible on the surface. It has become a common practice with certain "railroad wreckers" to obtain large interests in two competing lines, and, by the skillful manipulation of rates, transfer the bulk of the traffic to one line and so lessen the amount of work done by its rival that the latter fails to declare its customary dividend, or interest on its bonds is not met; bankruptcy follows, its stockholders are sold out, and the stock, bid in for a trifle by the secret agents of the