

## PURGATORY.

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HEBREWS ii. 14, 15.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

This is one of the most consoling passages in the blessed Bible. God the Son took upon Him our flesh and blood for a two-fold purpose: that through His own death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil, *and deliver them who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

My brethren, we—Christians though we are—know something in our own experience of what it is to be subject to bondage through the fear of death. The fear of death—the fear of what is beyond the grave—is a bitter thing. The Gospel that announces to us deliverance from it, is a Gospel of joy indeed. Alas! that we should see a large section of the disciples of the Saviour reduced under slavery to a fear of death *worse* than that from which He came to set "the children" free. For, can they be said to be delivered from the fear of death, who are taught that after death they must go into a place of punishment, where in fire they will be tormented for their sins until they have paid the utter-