

the most acceptable material for hope and thought and pious labors.

PURGATORY.

Where were the souls of all those who died before Christ? They were not in heaven; no one could enter heaven before Christ. They were not all in hell; they did not certainly all deserve hell. Where could they be then?

They were not in heaven, not in hell and Protestants will not admit of a third place for souls.

But it is evident that there must be a third place. The Jews believed and still believe it, Christ taught it, the scripture and the apostles taught it. The first writers of the Church taught it, all the whole church east and west has always taught it and teaches it still to day. The Protestants alone deny the existence of Purgatory or a middle place.

The Jews called it by several names, such as, hell, lower hell, a prison, a pit, Abraham's bosom, Paradise.

Jacob said: "I will go down with my son into hell mourning."—Gen. 37, 75. Jacob did not mean the hell of the damned. He did not mean the grave as the Protestant bible puts it, for he did not believe that Joseph had a grave, since he thought a wild beast had devoured him.

David said: "Thou hast delivered my soul from the lower Hell."—Ps. 85, 13. Prot. Bible ps. 86, 13. Then there must be another hell.

Our Saviour speaks of a prison and says: "I say to thee, thou shall not go out thence, until thou payest the very last mite." Luke 12, 59.

This is the prison mentioned by St. Peter in his 1st Epistle, 2, 18, and by all the apostles in their creed. "He descended into Hell;" for Christ descended not into the hell of the damned.

St. Luke, 16, 22, calls it Abraham's bosom; and Christ on the cross calls it, Paradise. Christ died, He descended into Hell, that is into Paradise where Abraham and all the good people of the old law were waiting for Him. Where holy Job was expecting Him, saying; *I know that my Redeemer liveth*, chap. 19, v. 25. There Christ promised to meet the penitent thief. Not in heaven, for he was not to ascend to heaven himself so soon. He should first go and announce His coming to all good souls, who were waiting for their Redeemer, in that third place, and who could not enter Heaven until Christ