

All we know of that which the Lord "yielded up" when he expired on the cross,—all we know of that which man "cannot kill,"—of that which the Saviour said had not "flesh and bones,"—of that "when absent from the [Christian's] body is present with the Lord"—we learn from the living oracles. There are so many mysteries about our "earthly tabernacle"—our "outer man"—so many things that we cannot comprehend, it becomes us not to be very positive and speculative about that which is still farther from our vision—which may be caught away and hear unspeakable things—not lawful for a man to utter.

And then, the Speculation—tending to produce scepticism relative to the real existence of an actual being, known by "holy men of God who spoke and wrote as moved by the Holy Spirit," as "that old Serpent, the Devil and Satan"—"going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour"—there is even less excuse than on the questions growing out of the former thought! For as certain as good and evil beings shall be gathered before the Lord in Judgment—so certain the existence of the devil and his angels, and wicked men will be perpetual.

Writing a word of warning against speculations, I would not myself set an example; for the fact that the devil is as real an existence as Jesus of Nazareth, is as clearly revealed in the christian scriptures as can be in words. Take an instance or two: "He that soweth the good seed is the son of man. The enemy that sowed (the tares) is the devil." Mat. xiii. 37, 39. "Resist the *devil* and he will flee from you;—draw nigh to *God* and he will draw nigh to you." James iv. 7, 8. Can any one doubt that the authors of these sentiments as firmly believed in a personal devil as they did in a personal Son of man, and an intelligent being known and revealed as God.

"Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" will be the language of the Lord to those who appear before him in Judgment, destitute of love to God and man. Eternal fire was not originally designed for man; but for satan and his messengers: for he "abode not in the truth;" but "was a liar from the beginning" John viii. 4, 5. Now the mind that is so under the influence of some darling speculation, as to persuade itself that this language could be used in reference to a nonentity—evil personified—can believe or disbelieve anything just as suits its fancy.

The Lord of Heaven and earth uses this language in the presence—nay, more, he addresses it to an audience, fully believing in the existence of a personal devil; and yet there are those who profess to be