

judge to the jury, from the jury to the witnesses, from the witnesses to the officer, from the officer to the magistrate, from the magistrate to the law-makers, from the law-makers to public opinion, but you find no vindictiveness anywhere. Who, then, is to blame because this man has been put to death? NO ONE BUT HIMSELF! And yet, so far as society is able, it has inflicted on this man *eternal punishment*.

Yes, the punishment shall be eternal. But what is ETERNITY? "Its significance is as high and wide and deep and grand as God is." He alone fills it, and He alone comprehends it. Time can be measured, not so Eternity. Let imagination attempt its loftiest and most daring flight through the dim and shadowy past; let it pass swiftly up the line of the centuries, past the rise of nations, past the birth of man, past the dawn of time; backward still till suns and systems shrink and fade, till angels disappear, till it reaches the awful solitude where nothing is save God, and yet it will be no nearer Eternity's beginning than when first its flight began. Then let it turn on mighty pinions, and dart swifter than the lightning, swift as thought, into the awful gulf of Eternity to come; onward while nations rise and droop and die; onward while dynasties change and pass; onward while time grows hoary with the lapse of centuries; onward still, past the solemnities of death and the terrors of judgment, and into that awful solitude beyond where time is not; onward through cycles that no arithmetic can compute, till reason reels and staggers in her effort to grasp the thought,—and still, when myriads of ages, as men count time, have passed, it will be no nearer Eternity's dread close than when first its adventurous pinion dared the infinite abyss. "What shall the end be?" Great God! there is no end!—there is no end!

3. *The punishment shall be banishment from God.*—Scripture testimony is very plain on this matter, and very solemn. We are distinctly told that a day is coming, "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power," (2 Thess. i. 8, 9). The term