

## Sermon.

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Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.—MATT. xxv. 41. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.—46.

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THESE texts have been often quoted in proof of the doctrine of a future judgment day, and an unmerciful retribution after this earth shall have been dashed from its orbit and burnt to ashes! Indeed, they are, to-day, considered, by a large portion of the Christian Church, as the very citadel of the argument for the doctrine of immortal pains in the world to come.

We would therefore, come to the inquiry as to their import and meaning with caution and a sincere desire to know the truth, and understand all the lessons of our Divine teacher, "who spake as never man spake before."

The sentence, "Depart ye cursed," &c., it is contended, will be pronounced at the last judgment by the Judge of all the earth, upon all who have not been careful to make their calling and election sure by works of righteousness which they have done—which works are supposed to consist in "closing in with the overtures of mercy and accepting the conditions of pardon."—And the declaration contained in the last text, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment," has reference to the same class, and to the same terrible doom.

On a subject of so much importance, we would particularly inquire into the precise nature of the charges made against those sinners who were to be tried at such a terrible Court! Let us carefully examine the case, and see what crimes are named in the indictment.

"For I was an hungred and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger and ye