

## A Dialogue, &c.

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THE time seems to have arrived when the human mind, bound for so many ages, may regain its independence. This is all that is wanting to make our land the paradise of God. Bigotry and superstition have degraded man and made him a prey to the worst of tyrants—the usurpers of conscience: But Brethren, the time is come when we must labour to liberate conscience from its former abject slavery, to give it an elevated character, which shall prompt a more noble piety to God, and a more dignified and benevolent conduct towards our fellow men.

*Question.* Notwithstanding your unshaken confidence in God's universal benevolence in the saving of all men, yet I say that there is a curse pronounced on the sons and daughters of men, through their disobedience, here is death and life set before man, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die: these threats and denunciations cannot be passed over with impunity, and unless they can be fairly answered without any twisting or torturing of the scriptures, I do now, and ever must believe in the eternity of punishment.

*Answer.* Strong as this objection may appear against the universal salvation of all men, yet if I cannot answer it fairly, I will at this moment renounce my sentiments, on that all important subject. When God created man in his own image and likeness and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life man became a living soul, God did not curse man but he blessed him and gave him rule and dominion over every thing that he had made, saying, "of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat but of the tree of knowledge