

THE UNDER-WORLD OF THE DEAD 25

of this subject? It has. Are the disembodied spirits there active and conscious? We will let the Scriptures answer. Of the unsaved dead the Scriptures declare that they are in prison (1 Peter 3:19); that is, under restraint and guard, and in that prison they are reserved unto the day of judgment to be punished (2 Peter 2:9). There is no need of putting unconscious spirits under guard. Hovey says, "Restraint implies power of action and suffering implies consciousness."

They are also said to be in torment (Luke 16:23). Dives is a representative of all those who are in Hades at the present. He is in great pain while probation lasts for his brethren on earth. He thinks, remembers, sees, hears, speaks, feels, protests, and prays for mercy, which is denied him. Fire is the source of his suffering, but not of annihilation. Two thousand years B. C. the fire consumed the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities of the plain, as far as their bodies were concerned, so that they were not left, root nor branch. But Jude declares (6, 7) that since that time, and in the present, the citizens of those towns, as