

IMMORTALITY versus ANNIHILATION.

CHAPTER I.

ANNIHILATION—ITS TENDENCIES AND EFFECTS.

Having recently perused some of the writings by which the so-called doctrine—"the unconscious state of the dead, and the annihilation of the wicked"—is taught, I am satisfied that the moral influence and general effects of this doctrine are injurious, even to its adherents, and that the arguments used in its favour are baseless. The Word of God abundantly and positively contradicts them. The system is too recent, and too limited in its acceptance, in this Province, to show its full bearings yet, but it may be reasonably expected that it will have the same influence upon men's lives amongst us, and lead those who may embrace these views in this country, to just where and what it has led men to elsewhere. All that is necessary to prove this is time and observation. Those amongst us who have embraced these opinions, were hitherto men of Christian education and evangelical sympathies, who can never entirely lose the power of those influences. But let it pass on until it influences a considerable number of persons who never have, to any great extent, been under such restraints, and I venture the prediction that the history of Epicureanism or the French Revolution will have an echo even amongst us, and that those who embrace these views will gradually sink down to the level and habits of the beasts whose destinies they claim. "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

The quotations in this chapter are from their own works, and suffice to show the spirit and feelings of their writers, and the evil tendencies of their doctrines. Some of them have gone so far in their zeal to propagate their theory, as to take a bold stand against the Bible, and virtually have said that it is better to reject revelation altogether, than to accept one that contains the doctrine they so much hate.