

THE TWO DEATHS.

The Bible refers to two deaths, and to two resurrections, which fall to the lot of human beings; but that all people are not partakers of each event.

Any person may, seemingly, partake of the first death, which is material, and temporal; and from which a resurrection is promised; but the wicked only are partakers in the second death, which is final. And while none but the righteous have part in the first resurrection both the just and the unjust may partake in the second resurrection. For "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power."

Although to mortal eyes both the righteous and the wicked die in the first, or temporary death, yet the Scriptures teach plainly that the spirits of the righteous do not die, but are "asleep in Jesus." The wicked, or unregenerate, die and remain dead until they are resurrected; but the righteous, or those who have been "born again" by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are at "rest," waiting the coming of their redeemer.

St. John xi, 26.

—Jesus said "Whosoever liveth and believeth on me, shall never die."

Job iii, 13.

—Job complained that he had not died in youth and said, "For now should I have lain down and been quiet: I should have slept; then had I been at rest." . . .

Job xvii, 16.

—When once there is rest in the dust.

Hebrews iv, 10.

—For he that hath entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works.