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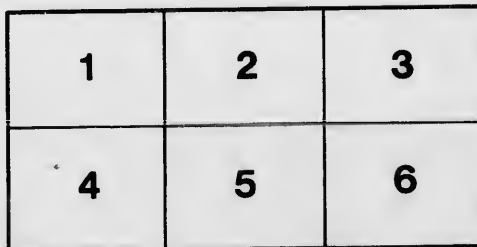
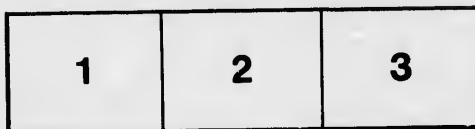
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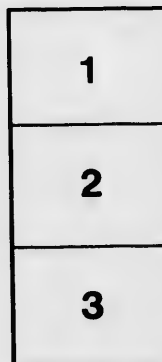
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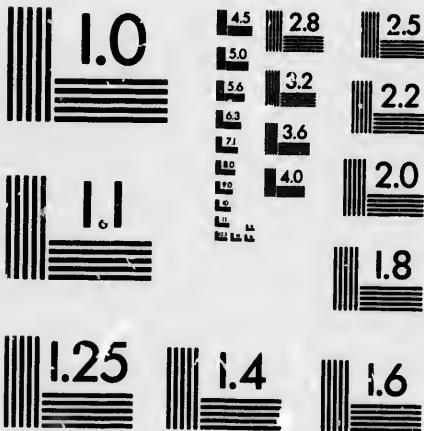
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ADDRESSES ON THE SCRIPTURES.

I WAS ONCE
A CHILD OF WRATH.

I AM NOW
A CHILD OF GOD.

280th THOUSAND.

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1878.

ADDRESSES ON THE SCOTLANDS

A NEW EDITION

A CHILD OF NATURE

AND

A CHILD OF GOD

BY THE REV. J. H. WILSON

THE REV. J. H. WILSON, D.D.,
PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS.
NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY
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1880.

I WAS ONCE A CHILD OF WRATH,
I AM NOW A CHILD OF GOD.

DEAR READER,

ONE day a book was given to me to read called The HOLY BIBLE. I was told that it spoke of wonderful things, and that it was the written message from the great God who made the Heavens and the Earth, to the people who lived in this world. I felt curious to know what it had to say to me, and the first thing I read was that

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." *2 Timothy* iii. 16.

Next, I was greatly surprised to read what GOD thought of men's characters in these days,

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a FORM of GODLINESS, but denying the POWER thereof: from such turn away." *2 Timothy* iii. 2-5.

and that the course of their every-day life, was,

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation [or dwelling place] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." *Ephesians* ii. 2, 3.

The description of people in general, who are called in these days "Christians" astonished me

greatly, as it was almost the very same as that describing the Pagan Heathen Nations in *Romans* i., the only difference being that we had a FORM of Godliness (Religiousness) which the old Pagan idolaters had not. I little thought that God looked upon us all as no better than heathens, and that our prospects for ALL ETERNITY were terrible to think of, for it was written,

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." *Ephesians* ii. 12.

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking VENGEANCE on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." *2 Thessalonians* i. 7-9.

"The Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute JUDGMENT upon all; and to CONVINCE all that are ungodly among them of ALL their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of ALL their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." *Jude* 14, 15.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." *Revelation* xx. 12, 15.

"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him, lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing." *Matthew* v. 25, 26.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT." *Hebrews* ix. 27.

I felt terribly cast down at this awful judgment coming upon me; when I saw, in *John* v. 39,

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have ETERNAL LIFE; and they are they which testify of ME."

I did so at once, and what do you think I then found—that an INHERITANCE had been RESERVED of great value, and that it would be FREELY GIVEN to ALL who would accept it, and I read this description of it,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, RESERVED in heaven for you, who are KEPT by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” 1 Peter i. 3-8

“Therefore, as by the offence of one [Adam] JUDGMENT came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Jesus] the FREE GIFT came upon all men unto justification of life.” Romans v. 18.

Feeling that I was thoroughly undeserving of so great a gift, and that I was under the JUDGMENT TO COME, I could not believe that such good news was for me, when I read to my surprise that GOD LOVED ME nevertheless:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John iii. 16.

“For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom FOR ALL.” 1 Timothy ii. 5, 6.

I found out also that I was earnestly invited to accept of hospitality without any payment as well as COMMANDED by GOD to turn from evil ways to Him, so as to escape from eternal judgment.

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he

that hath no money ; come, ye, buy and eat ; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread ? and your labour for that which satisfieth not ? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." *Isaiah* lv. 1, 2.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life : he that cometh to me shall NEVER hunger ; and he that believeth on me shall NEVER thirst. All [or everything] that the Father giveth me shall come to me ; and him that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT." *John* vi. 35, 37.

"And let him that is athirst come : and WHOSOEVER WILL let him TAKE the water of life freely." *Revelation* xxii. 17.

"But now commandeth ALL MEN every where to repent : because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained ; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." *Acts* xvii. 30, 31.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation ?" *Hebrews* iii. 3.

This apparent contradiction of God's message greatly puzzled me : I had read of God's opinion of me as being everything that was bad : that a terrible judgment was coming upon all the world, and yet that God loved me still, and freely offered me this great inheritance : I began to think that this book was all foolishness ; then I read

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit ; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God ; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth ; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the NATURAL MAN receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God ; FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM ; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 *Corinthians* ii. 9-14.

This gave me a new light upon the subject. I saw now that I could not understand the BIBLE

unless God taught me by His Holy Spirit. What was I to do? I searched farther and found these precious promises for all believers in Christ:

"But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye **NEED NOT THAT ANY MAN TEACH YOU**; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, even as it hath taught you, abide in Him." 1 John ii. 27.*

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke xi. 9, 10, 13.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith nothing wavering." James i. 5.

And what was more wonderful still, I read that God was even **BESEECHING** me to come and be friends with Him, that I might be made perfectly righteous in His sight.

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though GOD did **BESEECH** you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** in Him." 2 Corinthians v. 19-21.

I found, too, that this inheritance had only **ONE** entrance.

[Jesus said] "I am the door: **BY ME** if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John x. 9.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **NONE OTHER NAME** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts iv. 12.

* Wherever passages are marked with a star, see *Tischendorf's New Testament Corrections*.

"Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man [*Christ*] is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him ALL that believe are justified from ALL things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." *Acts* xiii. 38, 39.

I did not find this door at first, so I tried to get in by climbing up some ladders that the devil had put there to mislead souls: one of these was called SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, and another was called WORKS.

"For by grace [or free favour of God] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." *Ephesians* ii. 8, 9.

Now I soon found that it was quite impossible for me to get in by any such means as these, besides I was called a thief and a robber for trying to do so.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." *John* x. 1.

I should have found the door sooner, had I, instead of listening to what others told me, just searched the Bible more for myself.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed." *Acts* xvii. 11, 12.

Then I should also have seen the verse,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, I will both open the door, and will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." *Revelation* iii. 20.*

I saw now that it was simply by faith in Jesus only, that I could enter into this inheritance and be saved and obtain everlasting life, also that He was waiting to save me; so believing these messages from God to be really true, I entered gladly, and now found the title to my inheritance:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth; the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, AFTER THAT YE BELIEVED, ye were SEALED with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory." *Ephesians* i. 13, 14.

Also of my deliverance and forgiveness,

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; in whom we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins." *Colossians* i. 13, 14.*

"I write unto you, dear children, because your sins ARE FORGIVEN YOU, for His Name's sake." *1 John* ii. 12.

I found also that the genuineness of my faith should be tested by my works, or conduct in life:

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me." *Luke* ix. 23.

"And be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." *1 Peter* v. 5.

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." *James* ii. 14, 17.

"Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be the friend of the world, is the enemy of God." *James* iv. 4.

"No man can serve two masters. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." *Matthew* vi. 24.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." *Romans* viii. 13.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren [of Christ]. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." *1 John* iii. 14.

I saw now that in order to retain the precious assurance to my own soul that this Great Salvation was really mine, and also to glorify my Saviour in this world, I must show by my life that I was a faithful disciple of Christ by living according to His Word, as for instance,

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious

promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [or love]. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter i. 4-10.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable; and perfect, will of God.

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another: not slothful in [this] business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord: rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide all things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans xii.

"Abstain from ALL APPEARANCE of evil." 1 Thessalonians v. 22.

"What! know ye not that YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians vi. 19, 20.

This last Scripture was almost too wonderful to believe, that I, a poor sinner, should become the dwelling-place of the Holy Ghost. I saw now why I was especially told to avoid all connections and friendships with unbelievers:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for

what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ and Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and he shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 *Corinthians* vi. 14-18.

I felt that it was quite impossible for me to do all this by my own strength, but I saw that I was promised all necessary help:

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." *Ephesians* i. 18-21.

"I can do ALL THINGS through Christ which strengtheneth me." *Philippians* iv. 13.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." 2 *Corinthians* ix. 8.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." *Isaiah* xl. 31.

And I received great comfort in this assurance,

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 *Corinthians* x. 13.

"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries; which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God." *Philippians* i. 28.

I now became, by God's mercy, a totally different man :

"And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATURE: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." *2 Corinthians* v. 15-17.

"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you : but ye ARE washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye ARE justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus; and by the Spirit of our God." *1 Corinthians* vi. 10, 11.

"For by one offering He hath PERFECTED FOR EVER them that are sanctified." *Hebrews* x. 14.

And I who was once so poor and needy, and in danger of the condemnation to come, now enjoyed abundant riches, peace, and even divine honour :

"There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus." *Romans* viii. 1.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *Philippians* iv. 7.

"But my God will supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." *Philippians* iv. 19.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus." *Ephesians* ii. 4-7.

"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." *Ephesians* iii. 19.

"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us a kingdom, PRIESTS unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." *Revelation* i. 5, 6.*

Delighted as I was with the peace and joy that I now experienced in being quite freed from all pen-

alty and blame in God's sight, I nevertheless saw that there was a caution against carelessness of conduct in my every-day life:

"And you, that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouceable in His sight: IF YE CONTINUE in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard." *Colossians i. 21-23.*

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ HE IS NONE OF HIS. For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, THEY are the SONS OF GOD." *Romans viii. 9-14,*

I also found what treatment I must expect to receive from the world ;

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." *2 Timothy iii. 12.*

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." *John xv. 18, 19.*

Be constantly in attendance at the Great Storehouse, not only to get fresh supplies, but to take and to LEAVE there all your troubles.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need." *Hebrews iv. 16.*

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." *Psalms lv. 23.*

CARRY ALL YOUR SINS there, and go JUST AS YOU ARE, a GUILTY SINNER ; DO NOT PUT IT OFF to some other time, you may not be alive to-morrow; NOW is your day of grace, but TO-MORROW may be your day of judgment; the DEVIL is always urging us to delay our acceptance of this FREE GIFT OF SALVATION.

The Purchaser of the inheritance has already

paid the penalty of your sins for you, and He is **ABLE**, and **WILLING**, and even **REJOICES**, to save **ALL** those who come to Him.

"He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." *Hebrews vii. 25.*

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that **ANY SHOULD PERISH**, but that **ALL** should come to repentance." *2 Peter iii. 9.*

"I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over **ONE** sinner that repenteth." *Luke xv. 10.*

He is the door, enter by a true **LOVING FAITH**, and the moment you really do so, you will be safe **FOR EVER**.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, **HATH** everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but **IS PASSED** from death unto life." *John v. 24.*

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall **NEVER** perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." *John x. 27, 28.*

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but **FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE**." *Galatians v. 6.*

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be **ABLE** to **SEPARATE** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans viii. 38, 39.*

And then **THE HOPE** set before all believers is to wait for the Lord Jesus, who is coming down from heaven to take His saints up to Him for ever:

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I WILL COME AGAIN**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also." *John xiv. 3.*

"For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the

body of our humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto the **BODY OF HIS GLORY.**" *Philippians* iii. 20, 21.†

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us, that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed HOPE and appearing of the glory, of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." *Titus* ii. 11-13.*

But finally, dear reader, take warning also at what God solemnly declares,

"But the fearful, and UNBELIEVING, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." *Revelation* xxi. 8.

F.B.

† Revised Translation.

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NOW A CHILD OF GOD.

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