

HUMAN DESTINY

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Human Destiny by Robert Anderson

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ROBERT ANDERSON

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BY
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P R E F A C E .

Most subjects appeal only to some special class, but the destiny of mankind is of interest to all. This consideration has been kept in view in framing the following chapters. In recent years the controversy to which the study of eschatology has given rise has become narrowed to certain definite issues. To state and discuss those issues fairly, simply, and briefly, is the purpose of these pages.

39, LINDEN GARDENS, W.

(RECAP)

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NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN certain quarters the writer has been censured for the severity of his criticisms upon the writings of others. But he sees no reason to modify his statements. In the wide field of literature upon the subject of these pages the volumes quoted maintain a distinctive popularity. To ignore them, therefore, would be impossible. Equally impossible would it be to handle them as they deserve, if considerations of the piety and eminence of their respective authors were per-

mitted to intrude themselves. The names of the writers have therefore been omitted. We are here dealing with books, not with men. In a sense, of course, they are inseparable; but generous minds will recognise that while the living man may be worthy of respect and deference, perchance of admiration, his book may be regarded as a dead thing, to which the dissecting knife of criticism may be ruthlessly applied.

And, having regard to the surpassing solemnity and greatness of the truths which the books here quoted undermine, no criticism can be too relentless, if only it be just. The controversy passes beyond the range of eschatology, and involves the foundation truths and facts of Christianity. It is not a question merely of the destiny of man, but of

the character of God. The God of the Bible is a God of perfect righteousness and boundless love: "God IS love"; and "righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne." But under the teaching here assailed all this is lost in the conception of a Deity with whom weakness takes the place of love, and righteousness disappears in a display of wrath, which is either aimed at coercing the impenitent into repentance, or which is purely aimless, wanton, and vindictive.

But here we must discriminate. The author of "Eternal Hope" expressly declares his belief in the doctrine which his volume is ostensibly intended to refute. The book is throughout a passionate appeal to prejudice. "Eternal Life in Christ" gives proof that the views it advocates are incompatible with the

truth of the resurrection of Christ as man. "Salvator Mundi" makes such utter havoc of evangelical doctrine that the reader stands bewildered amidst the wreck of all that is most surely believed among us. And "The Restitution of all Things" is discredited by its very title, which is based upon a passage of Scripture that has no relation whatever to the final state.

It rests with the reader to decide whether these pages sustain the indictment thus briefly summarised.