

**FUTURE
PUNISHMENT,
PP. 3-67**

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Future Punishment, pp. 3-67 by Samuel C. Bartlett

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SAMUEL C. BARTLETT

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BY

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THIS brief discussion was prepared at the request of the editor of "The Congregationalist," as a series of articles for that journal. The length of the articles was prescribed in the application. No thought was then entertained by the writer himself of embodying them in a more permanent form. But the request has come from the same quarter, as well as from other sources, that they should be so gathered up. They have accordingly been revised for the purpose, with modifications here and there, intended chiefly to make portions of the argument more complete, and some of the points more obvious. It was not thought best materially to increase the length of the argument. There are advantages, and there are disadvantages, in so brief a discussion. The chief advantage, and the one which preponderated in the present case, is the greater probability of being read. It is eminently important at the present time, that the Church and the community should have access to some compact statement of the Scripture teachings on this solemn subject, and the reasons why those who accept the binding authority of the Scriptures are constrained to the belief they hold.

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.		PAGE
THE BASIS OF THE DOCTRINE		7
CHAPTER II.		
ITS RELATIONS TO THE GOSPEL SCHEME		14
CHAPTER III.		
THE DIRECT PROOF		23
CHAPTER IV.		
OBJECTIONS FROM SCRIPTURE		35
CHAPTER V.		
ETHICAL OBJECTIONS		50
CONCLUSION		66

FUTURE PUNISHMENT.

CHAPTER I.

THE BASIS OF THE DOCTRINE.

IT is not surprising that the question of future retribution should come up anew from time to time. In any great uprising and conflict of religious opinion, it is very sure to rise to the surface, not alone by reason of its intrinsic magnitude, but because the mode of solving it indicates the character of the religious system. This one bone tells the nature and habits of the whole body.

Great suffering is not only terrible to endure, but painful to contemplate. The Saviour wept when he pronounced an irrevocable sentence on Jerusalem. God said to certain rebellious sufferers, "Oh that thou hadst hearkened!"

Let, now, that great suffering be endless: let it be a penalty: let it be a penalty which at some time impends over every member of our race: and it is not strange, it is rather to be expected, that a large part of the race would, at all hazards, resist both