

**OUR ETERNAL
DESTINY,
HEAVEN OR HELL**

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Our Eternal Destiny, Heaven or Hell by Charles Rogers

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CHARLES ROGERS

**OUR ETERNAL
DESTINY,
HEAVEN OR HELL**

OUR ETERNAL DESTINY

HEAVEN OR HELL

BY THE

REV. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. SCOT.

*Author of "Christian Heroes," Editor of "Lyra Britannica,"
&c., &c.*

"The song
Of Heaven is ever new ; for daily thus,
And nightly, new discoveries are made
Of God's unbounded wisdom, power, and love,
Which give the understanding larger room,
And swell the hymn with ever-growing praise."

POLLON.



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P R E F A C E.

IN these pages one who has experienced many trials seeks to comfort and edify the traveller towards the heavenly rest. To the unconverted he addresses words of expostulation and warning. He has endeavoured to explain those passages of Holy Scripture which describe the future abodes of the saved and of the lost. Some of the views put forth have been for the first time published. The erroneous opinions of the Universalists have been controverted, while the Destructionists—who maintain that the ungodly, after passing through an awful judgment and a period of condemnation proportioned to their crimes, shall be destroyed with extinction of being—have been sufficiently confuted in course of the argument.

As to whether the glorified saints are conversant with the affairs of earth, no opinion has been expressed. That the Church Triumphant are privileged to rejoice together

with the angels when a sinner repenteth and is brought to God is most probable, but it would seem scarcely consistent with the heavenly perfection that the saints, while "made free from sin," should be still familiar with the sorrows of mortality. Shall the cry of a world lying in wickedness, and which "groaneth and travaileth in pain," be permitted to mar the joys of the ransomed?

The seer of Patmos has described the lost as tormented "in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb." In the performance of their high behests, angels penetrate to every portion of the universe. In His divine nature, the eye of Jesus must comprehend all space,—the secrets of the deep are open to Him. To His redeemed He shall certainly present no spectacle which may obscure the splendour or impair the glory of their heavenly dwelling-place.

That this little work may be blessed to many on the way Sionward is the Author's earnest prayer.

LONDON, *January*, 1868.

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INTRODUCTION.

CHRISTIAN Revelation represents the chain of existence which commences in the hour of birth, as extending onward throughout the ages of eternity. The chain submerged under the gulf of death appears on the other side with the stamp of immortality. The present life is an introduction to the future. Its pathway cannot be retraced. The conduct of each individual now determines his eternal condition.

The Lord Jesus Christ brought life and immortality to light. Through His abundant revelation the entire sacred volume teems with tidings concerning the eternal world. In the blessedness of Eden we obtain a pic-