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Smyrna when in danger of death for Christ’s sake. But  
what if a believer through fear of death denied Christ ?  
What seems the manifest implication of Luke xii. 4, 5 ?  
‘‘ And I say unto you, my friends, Be not afraid of  
them that kill the body, and after that have no more  
that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye  
shall fear: Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath  
power to cast into hell ; yea,I say unto you, Fear Him.”  
The fear of God is to overbalance the fear of  
man.  
“ Do you mean, then, to deny, with the Wesleyans, the  
perseverance of God’s elect ?”? By no means ; thatisa  
truth standing on firm grounds. But even John, who  
in his Gospel so strongly teaches that, as strongly  
asserts in the Saviour’s words, the punishment of be-  
lievers who die in sin unrepented of. What says that  
memorable passage ?  
“If aman abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch,  
and is withered ; and men gather them, and cast them into  
the fire, and they are burned ”’ (John xv. 6).  
And the Saviour’s promises of the saint’s persever-  
ance are made in a way whose force has been missed by  
our translators. “ Verily I say unto you, If any keep my  
saying, he shall not for ever seedeath”’ (John viii. 51, 52).  
‘“T give unto them [my sheep] eternal life, and they  
shall not perish for ever : neither shall any pluck them  
out of my hand.” ‘I am Resurrection and Life: he  
that believeth in me, though he die yet shall he live,  
and every one that liveth and believeth on me shall not  
diz for ever’ (John xi. 25, 26).  
“Do you mean, then, that all those who are excluded  
from the millennial glory taste of death for a thousand  
years ?”’ By no means. Some will be simply shut  
out, as unworthy of reward. But some are great  
offenders : some have been cut off in their sins: wit-  
ness Ananias and Sapphira.