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; that is a  
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 believers who die in sin unrepented of. What says that  
memorable passage?  
 “*If a man 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 perseverance 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 see death*” (John viii. 51, 52).  
 “I 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  
die 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: witness Ananias and Sapphira.