

## The Angel of Purgatory.

How many sweet reminiscences this title recalls to a Christian mind.

### A Plea for the Departed.

How soon forgotten are the dear ones gone before us,  
 When hid beyond the portals of the tomb;  
 How soon we turn to worship other idols,  
 And leave them there in cold, unsolaced gloom.

They may be suffering in that far-off country,  
 Torments from which our prayers could gain relief,  
 Denied the sight of the All-Father's glory—  
 Tho' past the power of sinning,—sore their grief,

They call to us for help for kindly succor,  
 But worldly ears heed not the spirit cry;  
 And ingrate hearts intent on selfish pleasures,  
 Unmindful of their need, pass coldly by.

If love be strong as death, why leave unransomed  
 The dear ones sleeping 'neath the churchyard sod,  
 When one short prayer, perchance, would burst the fetters  
 That bar the yearning flight to God?

In after years you may be sin's dread captive,  
 A rescued friend in Heaven will not delay  
 To loose the gyves of your ignoble bondage,  
 And aid you on your toilsome homeward way.

Forget them not! in season, out of season  
 Breathe fervent Aves for their swift release  
 From that dark prison where they yearn unceasing  
 For the glad realm of Heaven's eternal peace.

### PURGATORY.

In the plan of religion there is no better-studied doctrine, and in the order of reason no truth more satisfactory to the mind or more consoling to the heart. The doctrine of Purgatory has on its side all tradition and every authority, the poets and philosophers of pagan antiquity, just men, prophets and doctors, mythology, the gospel and history, painting, the monuments of architecture and sculpture up to the time of Luther; not to speak of Plato, who in his Gorgias speaks of a future existence in which men may expiate, through suffering, a guilty life; not to

speak of Virgil, who shows us how souls are constrained to purify themselves before entering the Elysian Fields. Everywhere we find traces of expiatory rites, and engraved in the heart of man and in the customs of every people a living expression of the belief that there must be a place where the dead go to be purified before ascending to Paradise.

Let us open the Bible, and what find we there? That the custom of praying for the dead dates from the earliest ages, which custom is connected with the idea of Purgatory,