



NO. 25

# Raleigh Christian Advocate

Organ of the North Carolina Conference

FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR

RALEIGH, N. C., AUGUST 3, 1911.

NUMBER 25.

## Immortality.

By Theodore Parker.

To my mind this is the great proof of immortality: The fact that it is written in human nature; written there so plain that the rudest nations have not failed to find it, to know it; written just as much as form is written on the circle, and extension on matter in general. It comes to our consciousness as naturally as the notions of time and space. We feel it as a desire; we feel it as a fact. What is thus in man is writ there of God, who writes no lies. To suppose that this universal desire has no corresponding gratification is to represent Him not as the Father of all, but as only a deceiver. I feel the longing after immortality, a desire essential to my nature, deep as the foundation of my being; I find the same desire in all men. I feel conscious of immortality; that I am not to die; no, never to die, though often to change. I cannot believe this desire and consciousness are felt only to mislead, to beguile, to deceive me. I know God is my Father, and the Father of the nations. Can the Almighty deceive His children? For my own part, I can conceive of nothing which shall make me more certain of my immortality. I ask no argument from learned lips. No miracle could make me more sure; no, not if the sheeted dead burst cément and shroud, and, rising forth from their honored tombs, stood here before me, the disenchanted dust once more enchanted with that fiery life; no, not if all the souls of all my sires since time began came thronging round, and with miraculous speech told me they lived and I should also live, I could only say, "I knew all this before, why waste your heavenly speech?" I have now indubitable certainty of eternal life. Death, removing me to the next state, can give me infallible certainty.