

DIVINE AID.

1st SAMUEL, VII CHAPTER, 12th VERSE.—“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

Few individuals of ordinary thoughtfulness, on looking back at the changing aspects and varied events of their past pilgrimage, can fail to respond to these words of the prophet Samuel in our text. It may not be to them, as it was to him, a victory over powerful and dreaded enemies, that awakened this thankful acknowledgment; but many an escape from difficulties that appeared insurmountable,—a triumph over obstacles seemingly beyond human power to overcome,—the accomplishment of high and beneficent purposes which were all but abandoned as beyond attainment,—these are things in the lot of many which call forth the exclamation, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

Such, doubtless, has been the experience of many whom I am now addressing,—struggling, yet almost despairing; hoping, and yet against hope. But as they go on, in dutiful perseverance, the overshadowing cloud becomes lighter: sunshine has gleamed through it, and the day of despondency has passed away. There may, —and there should be,—in such cases, complacent thoughts upon the value of steady patience and of persistent struggle against every up-hill toil and difficulty; but the Christian mind will turn off from the weakness of human effort by itself, and acknowledge as the grand source of success the favoring Providence of God. *He* has cleared away difficulties which would have rendered our onward course impossible; *He* has opened a

its title explains, on the opening of the old Mark's. The Church the late Rev. Mr. and the late Thomas first Churchwardens. old Church, until the of the Town, when it service. In the Spring old Church, under the r Divine Service on the Reverend Charles d Incumbent. The l by the offertory- ee System.