

occurrence, being confined almost to the annual meetings of the three choirs of Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester in the provinces, and to the Lenten performances in London. The example set by this Society has been imitated with success, not only in London, but in the country, and oratorio performances are now frequent, and upon a scale of grandeur, magnificence, precision, and perfection hitherto unattained and completely unknown elsewhere.

Now that the performance of oratorio has become an established fact in Toronto, through the efforts of the Philharmonic Society, it may be interesting to our readers to know how oratorios originated, and with this view the above article is supplied.

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### LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

I know not—the way is misty—  
The joys or the griefs it shall bring,  
What clouds are o'erhanging the future,  
What flowers by the roadside shall spring.  
But there's One who will journey beside me,  
Nor in weal nor in woe will forsake ;  
And this is my solace and comfort—  
“ He knoweth the way that I take.”

I stand where the cross roads are meeting,  
And know not the right from the wrong ;  
No beckoning fingers direct me,  
No welcome floats to me in song ;  
But my Guide will soon give me a token,  
By wilderness, mountain, or lake ;  
Whatever the darkness about me,  
“ He knoweth the way that I take.”

And I know that the way leadeth homeward,  
To the land of the pure and the blest,  
To the country of ever-fair summer,  
To the city of peace and of rest ;  
And there shall be healing for sickness,  
And fountains, life's fever to slake ;  
What matters beside ? I go heavenward,  
“ He knoweth the way that I take.”