

"GO UP HIGHER."*

BY REV. N. HALL.

- IN these souls of ours—an essential and inseparable element of their nature—is the principle, or capacity, of progress. From the birth of consciousness, their course—so designed by their Great Inspirer—made possible to them, though not necessitated—is upward. The pathway open to them—to their desire and their endeavor; roughened, it may be, by difficulties; overhung, it may be, at intervals, with depressing shades,—is one of ascent. Circuitously they may advance from point to point; retrogressive their way may seem to them; while surely, as fact or as preparation, it is onward. The call of the Creator is thus writ upon his work, in this investiture of capacity and power,—“go up higher.” That call is also felt in those earnest desires after excellence, which are the experience of every soul whenever it is itself, whenever it has come to its holier birth, the sure attendants of its better hours; desires, as if for something it must needs possess, as if for something with which its peace is bound; desires which are never satisfied, but spring afresh, at every point attained, and with an ever-augmenting force, for higher still; whose abatement is the certain signal of moral illness, whose entire cessation of moral death. It is the call of all Religion :—of this, native to the soul, which speaks through its diviner sentiments and capacities, and of that which addresses us from without, which has come through Prophet and Apostle and Redeemer. That last and highest of the Almighty’s utterances,—how does

* Luke xiv. 10.