

S E R M O N .

John ix. 4 —The night cometh when no man can work.

It is evident from the context that these words of our Blessed Lord are directly applicable to himself, and that, viewed in this light, they have a peculiar and profound significance. They were spoken while the day-time of his busy life on earth, with all its marvellous works of might and grace, for the glory of God and the good of man, was yet in course. Having been made like unto his brethren, in respect of the real lowly humanity he assumed, he became subject to the divine arrangement which assigns to each of us a term of existence here,—a day of life, of longer or shorter duration, but exactly and unalterably fixed,—and to the divine will which prescribes to each a certain amount of work to be done within the given years of his pilgrimage, whether they be many or few. In His case there was a great, a glorious, a matchless work to be accomplished, and the period allotted for its performance was very short, and therefore crowded with the proofs of his unwearied diligence in doing it, and with the ever increasing and brightening displays of his fitness and sufficiency to carry it forward to its final com-