

THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY:

A VISITATION SERMON.

"Our sufficiency is of God." II. Cor. iii. 5.

In occupying a pulpit in this great city for the first time since my ordination, more than one and twenty years ago; and in attempting to discharge the important duty of a preacher to a company of preachers (at the feet of many of whom, and especially of our venerable and revered Diocesan, I ought rather to sit as an humble learner); I desire, brethren, to speak in entire *reliance* on HIM, who has graciously promised that "His strength shall be made perfect in our weakness." And in making such remarks as naturally suggest themselves to me, in connexion with the words of the text, I trust that I may be considered merely as desiring, in all faithfulness and Christian love, to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance," and to recall to your recollection important truths, with which you have been all thoroughly conversant.

The words of the text plainly point out to us the only source, whence we can hope for success in discharging the momentous duties of the Christian ministry.

It has been well remarked, that the office of a *lawyer* is important, because it watches over our *property*; and the office of a physician *much more* so, because it guards our health; for "the life is more than meat, and the body than raiment." But the care of the never-dying soul is infinitely *more important* than either our life or our property. For our life, at the best, is but a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. And of earthly possessions, when put in competition with the never-dying soul, our blessed