

*"Our sufficiency is from God"*

II CORINTHIANS 3-5

The Collect for to-day, the second Sunday in Lent, takes us back to Pre-Reformation days and the Diocese of Salisbury when petitions were offered in Latin. In harmony with the thought of St. Paul, who said: "I will pray with the spirit but I will pray with the understanding also," the English broke with the tradition of having services in Latin and translated them into the language "understood of the people." Hence we have the Collect for to-day translated from the old Sarum Collect, and it begins "Almighty God who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves." Those words can have reality only on the lips of those who really see God in the perfection of His holiness and goodness, and who have meditated on His purpose and His will for man. For most of us they probably have a touch of unreality because our vision of God is frequently beclouded, and the time devoted to meditation on His purpose and His will is so limited. For the person who accepts the conventions of society as the norm for life, the words can