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Religious.

Providence.

(REV. JOHN TORRANCE, M.A.)

BY Providence, we mean the power which God puts forth to control the affairs of men for His own glory. All things must ultimately redound to the glory of God, and Providence is that which so regulates all as to secure this end. That there is such a power at work, is evident both from reason and divine revelation. Men cannot do just *what* they please; nor can they do any thing just *when* they please. We do not refer to things which are evidently beyond the power of man, but to such as appear quite easy to accomplish. There are physical impossibilities which no sane man would ever will to do; but we refer to matters about which there is no physical impossibility, yet, it will be found, that men cannot do them, though they may will their execution ever so much. Cowper, no doubt, thought there was nothing to hinder him from committing suicide. He concluded to drown himself. "Without delay, he called a coach, and was driven to Tower Wharf, intending to throw himself into the river from the Custom-house quay; but when he reached it, he found the water low, and a porter seated on a pile of goods, as if keeping watch on purpose. Hopeless of accomplishing his object, he re-entered the coach, closed the shutters, and seized the laudanum. Twenty times he held the bottle to his lips, and as often an unseen hand