

SERMON.

"And the Lord said unto Gideon: The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there. And it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go."—Judges, vii., 4.

If the question were put to us, in what portion of the sacred volume the fullest illustrations of Providence are to be found, we would answer,—in that part of the Old Testament which contains the history of Ancient Israel; for God's procedure towards that people, appears to have been designedly illustrative of His procedure towards His Church in all ages. Paul intimates this much when he says, respecting the events that befell Israel: "All these things happened unto them for ensamples, (rather types or models,) and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."—I. Cor., x. 11. And this, my hearers, I may remark in passing, appears to be a characteristic feature of the works of God—that certain great analogies or resemblances run through them all; so that the lesser are emblems or patterns of the greater. Thus, some one small portion of the earth's surface, it may be an island in the ocean shall be in respect to its mineral structure, and its vegetable and animal productions, an epitome of the globe itself. And, in respect to what is confessedly the grandest and most glorious of all the works of God—the work of human redemption, intimations are not wanting, that, it is just an illustration, in the treatment of one class of creatures, in their peculiar condition of ruin and wretchedness, of the transcendent excellencies and glories of the Godhead, as these are to be unfolded in the government of the whole intelligent universe throughout an unending eternity. The church being thus a theatre on which the sovereignty and all-sufficiency, the boundless grace and righteousness of God