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low the servant to slacken his toil, or give up hope.

That Master, we know, is never a hard or unreasonable one. He imposes no impossible duties; he asks for no strain of mind or body beyond what his servants can endure. He, too, is always at hand for help: when human strength would fail, *He* interposes with his irresistible power. The human effort never relaxed, and the Divine aid never withdrawn, there is success at last. Like Samuel, we can set up the monumental pillar, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

These, my brethren, are world-wide experiences; and if we can recognize such to be our own, the contemplation of them intensifies our interest and our satisfaction. Here, in this parish, they may not have been so varied or so striking as in other places; but you, it is certain, have had shadows and light in your parochial experiences,—dark days, as well as bright sunshine; all but despairing efforts, with success at last to hail and be thankful for. When weariness, or indolence, or decline of faith, is not allowed to mar our energies, God is sure to help us through them all.

To exhibit the lights and shadows of your parochial experience so as to increase your hope and confidence in the future, it may be profitable to make a brief review of its history.

Antecedent to the building of the church in which we are now assembled, occasional services were given in a small homely school house close by, by the late Reverend William Macanlay, then the Incumbent of Cobourg; and I have a recollection of being present at one of these prior to my ordination, when about