SPECIAL DIVINE INTERPOSITIONS IN NATURE.*

No subject of theology has in it more true moral sublimity than the government of God over this world. Yet it is eminently a practical subject. Our views of it afford a test of our piety and a type of its character. Nay, there is one feature of this government that has been regarded as the chief distinction between revealed and natural religion. We refer to Special Divine Interpositions. These have been supposed to be peculiar to revelation; while nature moves on by uniform, unchanging and unchangeable laws; nor does the whole history of those laws, as given by natural science, show a single example of interference or modification on the part of the Deity.

We venture to call in question the correctness of these views. If we have read nature aright, it teaches a different lesson. That lesson may be worth learning. We choose for our subject, therefore, Special Divine Interpositions in Nature, as made known by science.

Let us, in the first place, endeavor to affix a definite meaning to the phrase Special Divine Interpositions.

But here, perhaps, it may be necessary to interpose a re-

^{*} This address, essentially as here given, was delivered at the anniversaries of the Newton and Bangor Theological Seminaries.