PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

ARTICLE

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only really unnatural circumstance described in
the passage is the fact that Saul joined with
them. This will be discussed below.

The work of the prophet is generally repre-5 sented as an individual activity. At this time 6 Samuel is the only individual who is described 7 as performing the true prophetic function of receiving messages from God and passing them on, 9 but it would be quite natural that other individ-10 uals might join together to follow him and to 11 spread the message that he presented. At this 12 period of Philistine oppression it would be par-13 ticularly natural that such activities, partly 14 religious and partly nationalistic, should 15 develop. In a loose way the term "company of 16 the prophets" might be applied to such groups. 17 It is reading into the passage something that is 18 not there to say that these men were giving evi-19 dence of an abnormal psychological condition. 20 Even if they had been doing so it would prove 21 nothing as to the attitude of Samuel and the 22 many other individual prophets, both before and 23 after, of whom noting at all similar is ever 24 stated.



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Another passage cited in this connection is