

which is altogether unconnected with the believing reception of the doctrines of God's word—and sometimes such an excitement becomes epidemic. Some ministers, unwilling to give countenance to what is said and done, have stood aloof from such movements, and have been condemned as opposed to revivals. *Mere excitement* produces reaction—the fire burns out, and leaves only ashes behind; and we have known instances in which such a movement has ended in a tempest of uncharitable feeling and unchristian speech. Yet there is an excitement which stands in simple opposition to the cold, heartless indifference which now prevails, which is greatly to be longed for. An awakening to the living reality and momentous importance of spiritual things is the Church's great immediate need. We may well pray for such an excitement as prevailed on the day of Pentecost, when thousands were crying out "What shall we do to be saved?" Let ministers and elders, and other earnest Christian men, awake to a sense of personal duty in this matter, and the guidance and direction of these movements will necessarily fall into their hands, and influences that would mar or hinder the good work will be counteracted.

Evil is sometimes done by giving to young converts a leading place as the teachers of others. It is indeed characteristic of every revival of religion, that those who have been brought from darkness to light should burn to kindle others with the contagion of their own baptism of fire—and every soul burning with the fervor of its first love may be profitably employed; but it is necessary to have this agency under wise guidance, to seek for the young men themselves an enlightened, manly, scriptural piety, to guard them against undue self-estimation, against arrogance and presumption; to teach them to distinguish between mere noise and rant and earnest pleading with God, and working for the kingdom of Christ. All this can be done in such a way as to intensify rather than diminish the energy and enthusiasm which they are ready to throw into the work, and which is characteristic of their age and circumstances.

Our readers have doubtless already heard of the recent awakenings in Galt and its neighbourhood. A brief visit to Galt has deeply impressed the writer with the solemnity and importance of the work there. The current of Divine influence moves deeply and strongly and silently. The meetings are characterized by a most impressive stillness. Things may have been said which good men regret—but there can be no doubt that a very real and genuine revival has, to a remarkable extent, taken place, and is yet going on in Galt and its neighbourhood. The truths of the Gospel have been plainly, simply and scripturally set forth—especially the love and grace of God the Father, the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the power and promise of the Holy Spirit. Justification by faith alone, the renewal of the Holy Ghost, and the offer of immediate salvation through the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, have all been set forth with great simplicity. The people of God have been greatly quickened. Many who at first stood aloof from the movement have been constrained to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the presence of the Holy Ghost, and to cast themselves heartily into the work. Whole families are rejoicing together in the hope of the Glory of God. The awakening has spread to Mr. McDonald's congregation in Puslinch, and also to Ayr, where meetings are being held in Mr. McRuer's church. Mr. Smith is indefatigable in his labours, holding meetings in various school houses within a circuit of six miles from Galt, as well as meetings every evening in his own church. Many of the elders and others are heartily co-operating with him in his