

that strong Calvinist Toplady, the author of "Rock of Ages." He was converted in 1756, when only sixteen years of age, by hearing an ignorant layman preach in a barn at Codrington in Ireland on Ephesians ii., 13. "Ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

When Whitefield visited America in 1739, he preached for a time in the episcopal churches of Philadelphia with acceptance, but his doctrine of imputation was distasteful to his brethren, so that he was compelled to take himself to other fields. The sermon which created the breach between him and his brother clergymen was on Jeremiah xxiii., 6, "The Lord our Righteousness." It was blessed, however, to the instruction of many souls. The remarkable revival of 1740-45, which followed his ministrations and those of like-minded men, had many objectionable features of a hysterical nature, and several pious ministers, such as President Edwards and David Brainerd, deplored them and protested against them. Such a man also was Mr. Fish of Stonington, Connecticut, who, though a warm friend of revivals, found his own church-people full of hysteria, love of outward signs, and spiritual pride. To cure this he preached on Ephesians v., 1, "Be ye followers of God as dear children," in which sermon he endeavoured to shew the difference between the real following of God and excited imagination. As in the case of our Saviour, "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." Thus the Word was a fan winnowing the threshing floor.

The world was dead in regard to the great subject of Missions when William Carey, cobbler and schoolmaster of Northampton, sought to rouse it by many a spoken and written word. In 1788 he became a Baptist minister at Leicester, but not till 1792, when his association held an anniversary and asked him to preach, had he an opportunity of pressing his views. With a beating heart he took the text, Isaiah liv., 2, 3, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, etc." The discourse moved the association, and a missionary society was at once formed. When a man was asked for, he offered to go down into