

method of illustrating it would be by bringing individuals into a locality where the heavenly guest is present and putting forth his influence. But next to the actual and visible exhibition of the effects is a clear and faithful record of them. Such we have in many of the publications of the middle and earlier parts of the last century. On the present occasion we shall select from the works of the celebrated President Edwards a portion of his account of a case that occurred in Northampton, under his personal ministrations, which is as follows :

“ It was in the latter part of December that the Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in, and wonderfully to work amongst us ; and there were, very suddenly, one after another, five or six persons who were, to all appearance, savingly converted, and some of them wrought upon in a very remarkable manner. Particularly I was surprised with the relation of a young woman, who had been one of the greatest company-keepers in the whole town. When she came to me I had never heard that she was become in any wise serious ; but by the conversation I then had with her, it appeared to me that what she gave an account of was a glorious work of God’s infinite power and sovereign grace, and that God had given her a new heart, truly broken and sanctified. I could not then doubt of it, and have seen much in my acquaintance with her since to confirm it. Though the work was glorious, yet I was filled with concern about the effect it might have upon others. I was ready to conclude (though too rashly) that some would be hardened by it in carelessness and looseness of life, and would take occasion from it to open their mouths, in reproaches of religion. But the event was the reverse, to a wonderful degree. God made it, I suppose, the greatest occasion of awakening to others of anything that ever came to pass in the town. I have had abundant opportunity to know the effect it had, by my private conversation with many. The news of it seemed to be almost like a flash of lightning upon the hearts of young people all over the town, and upon many others. Those persons amongst us who used to be farthest from seriousness, and that I most feared would make an ill improvement of it, seemed greatly to be awakened with it ; many went to talk with her concerning what she had met with, and what appeared in her seemed to be to the satisfaction of all that did so.

Presently upon this a great and earnest concern about the great things of religion, and the eternal world, became universal in all parts of the town, and among persons of all ages. The noise among