

The Record.

TORONTO APRIL 1890.

PROGRESS OF REVIVAL.

Accounts from various quarters show that the work of Revival is still advancing. In many places in Ireland, the movement, it more quiet and undemonstrative, is still advancing, and producing its appropriate fruits. It was stated lately by Dr. Morgan at a union prayer meeting, that he had received an interesting letter, giving an account of an extensive revival in a distant part of the country, of which nothing had been published in the newspapers.

In Wales the work has been for a considerable time advancing. A correspondence of the London *Record* says :

"Revivals in Wales have been as remarkable as in any other part of the world. The awakening has not been confined to one communion of Christians ; it has pervaded all, and has been as powerfully felt among the congregations of the Establishment as among Dissenters. It has travelled through nearly the whole of the Principality, and the Churches are everywhere rejoicing. I was last autumn in the midst of the revival in Glamorganshire. It was different to any witnessed in my native place before. I was present upwards of sixty years ago at perhaps the first revival in that country. The effects were very powerful then on the people. Great rejoicings and remarkable outward emotions appeared. The effects lately were more calm and sober; the congregations in public worship were as quiet and grave as any in England ; but a great work was at the same time carried on during the services on the minds of many ; the Spirit was blessing the Word for the enlightening and converting of souls, and leading them to Christ. It was at the end of the services the effects appeared ; it was as people went out of places of worship. The persons affected could not leave the walls of God's house; some remained in, and others returned back with weeping and lamentation, as it is said in Jeremiah xxxi. 9. They were of course received by ministers with great pleasure, and treated with much tenderness and propriety, and directed to the all-wise and merciful Saviour for help and comfort. They were consequently greatly edified and consoled. More than two hundred had joined the Church of God in my native parish before I left. It contains about two thousand souls altogether. This remarkable revival is not peculiar to one parish, or one denomination of Christians. It was witnessed, I am happy to say, in several neighbouring villages and towns throughout the vale of Glamorganshire among all Christians. We have united prayer-meetings in the adjoining villages as well as at Leicester, which seems to be under the Divine blessing. Party spirit is on the decline ; Christians of different denominations meet each other with smile and affection.

In various parts of Scotland the good work, which first commenced in Ireland, goes on with most decided results. Recently a very

marked work of revival has taken place in certain parts of Banffshire on the North East coast of Scotland. In a letter to the Editor of the *Witness*, the Rev. Mr. Williamson, Minister of the Free Church at Huntly says :

"As I have lately had an opportunity of examining extensively and minutely the present religious awakening in the villages along the seaboard of this district,—in special, Findochty, Portessie, Buckie, and Portgordon,—perhaps you will give me space in your columns to lay before your numerous readers the result of my observations. That it is a genuine religious awakening,—that is, a special awakening of the hearts and consciences of men, by the Holy Spirit, through the truth,—I entertain no doubt. The awakening in the villages I have named seems very extensive. In some of them there is scarcely a house in which at least some members of the family are not deeply moved. I visited many of the houses, and in them I found persons of all ages deeply impressed. The sturdy fishermen, blunt and frank, seemed bowed down under a sense of sin, or rejoicing in hope. The women, likewise, and also the young, were similarly affected. In some cases they seemed greatly confused, as regards their feelings, like one suddenly awakened out of sleep, stunned and amazed. In most cases they were able to give a very intelligent account of their state and feelings, of their fears and hopes. I found many powerfully awakened to a sense of sin and guilt, and in a state of great mental suffering ; others had emerged out of it, and professed to be rejoicing in Christ Jesus, and certainly their beaming faces seemed to say it was so. In all these cases I have alluded to, they were able to give a very plain and Scriptural account of the cause of their anguish, or of their joy. The work seems quite as extensive and as deep as it was in Ireland, when I had an opportunity of visiting it last summer. I am confident of the most blessed results, as regards the moral and spiritual elevation of those villages. Many of those seemingly improved will doubtless fall away, but I feel very hopeful that very many will abide the trial. Already, in some of the villages, there is a great change in the drinking habits of the people. Nothing that has yet occurred is any argument against the work being of God ; any one who knows what human nature is, how it is ready to act at such a time, and what the nature of that work of God is, which He works upon the hearts of men, when He is bringing them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, is prepared to expect excitement and outbursts of folly and inconsistency on the part of some. Any one who is familiar with the history of the Church of God in the past must be prepared to expect such things. The excesses at the time of the Reformation, in all lands,—and in some cases they were frightful,—are no argument, at least with Protestants, against that most glorious work of God. If Christianity is to cover the earth, if men are to be blessed in Christ, we must be prepared to expect greater revivals than have ever yet occurred,—on a much grander scale, and shaking humanity much more mightily. The work in these villages, there can be no Scriptural ground to doubt, is a glorious work of God. The follies of men mingle with all they touch,

or that touches them. Some, I doubt not, will fall away, and their last state become worse than the first ;—Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

In connexion with the revival we cannot refrain from adverting to the great work going on in London for the moral and spiritual good of the most degraded. Never perhaps in the history of the Church has the peculiar character of the gospel dispensation been so fully realized,—“the poor have the gospel preached unto them.” Recently meetings have been held at midnight for the purpose of assembling as many as possible of the poor degraded outcasts of the female sex, for whose souls few have hitherto cared. At some of these meetings hundreds have assembled, and, after receiving comfortable refreshments, have been addressed by such men as the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, Rev. Messrs. Brock, Arthur and others. Deep emotion was exhibited on the part of many, and the movement has already resulted in the restoration to their homes and friends, of not a few of those who had long been wandering far from virtue and happiness.

Another effort lately made in the same direction has been the opening of several of the cheap theatres for public worship. This matter having been referred to in the House of Lords by Lord Dunsannon, Lord Shaftesbury, one of the principal movers in the matter, defended the course adopted, and made a most powerful and telling speech. The number of theatres open is now seven, and on a recent Sabbath evening the gross attendance was found to be 20,700, giving nearly 3000 to each. Of these only a small proportion would have any opportunity of hearing the gospel in any other way. Although in some cases the buildings were crowded with audiences of the very lowest character, the meetings have been orderly, and often a feeling of the deepest solemnity has prevailed. In the course of his speech Lord Shaftesbury said :

He had been at the Victoria Theatre services three times. On one occasion 3200 persons attended, and the place was so crammed that it was impossible to place a straw between, and from the beginning to the end nothing could be more attentive and devout than the demeanour of the auditory, and at the close of the preacher's discourse some of the wildest and most ferocious-looking were visibly affected, and left so quietly that you could scarcely hear a footfall. A solemn conviction was made upon their minds, and they only required space and repetition to make a vivid and lasting impression. The number of men at one of the services, as compared with women, was nine to one ; at another seven to three ; and he minutely inquired of a person well acquainted with the neighbourhood into the