

man, it might be—sometimes one of those men whom the Lord seems to have raised up in our day for doing him good service in his Church; sometimes it was a convert who went and told his simple story of the Lord's goodness to him; sometimes it was a company of fishermen, in the way of their profession going to a different part of the coast, and carrying to their friends the tidings of what the Lord had done for them. I find in many of the returns mention made of such men as North, Grant, Radcliffe, Hammond, Forlong, and Weaver. God seems to have honoured the labours of these men in a marvellous way. At the same time, we are to bear in mind that they were but instruments, the excellency of the power resting with God; and we find abundant evidence that he can use the weakest means in carrying conviction to the hearts of sinners. Awakenings have taken place in the most unlikely places to human appearance, thus giving evidence that it was of the Lord's sovereignty that the work was done. The work was sometimes carried on and spread by a single remark made by one individual to another by the repetition of a text of Scripture, by a message from one friend to another—or by a letter written from the scene of revival to friends or relatives. I believe that the day only will reveal how much the work has been forwarded by the letters of Christian men and women, written in the warmth of their hearts to friends and relatives at a distance; for no sooner is a sinner brought to Christ, than his first thought is—"I will tell my relatives and friends what Christ has done for me." The convert cannot rest until he has made known to those in whom he is interested the Lord's work upon him.

"I find from the reports that in a number of places there was considerable excitement. I do not wonder at that. When men for the first time find themselves on the brink of hell, with nothing between their souls and perdition but the frail, fleeting breath in their nostrils, I do not wonder that they should feel alarmed and excited—when they feel themselves for the first time to be under the wrath and condemnation of a righteous and holy God. My wonder is that there is not more excitement—that people still unconverted can hear of sin and hell, of a Saviour and heaven, without feelings of emotion. Then, there were prostrations in some cases, I say nothing of them; I do not understand them: I have not seen them; I can form no distinct judgment upon them. But while these existed in some cases, and much excitement in others, I can gather from the reports sent into me that this has not been generally the case. We find generally that the work has gone on in a quiet, unobtrusive way, while, at the same time, it was a deep and earnest work. Ah! that excitement; people are afraid of it, and sometimes it comes with a mighty power, as if it would sweep everything away before it; but when one is enabled to cast himself humbly upon God, and to enter into the work earnestly, it is not such a formidable thing after all. Our God is a God of order; and if we cast ourselves upon his strength, and take counsel of him, I believe he will enable any man of ordinary prudence and courage to guide these excited meetings for his glory, and for the good of souls.

"Then I am very glad to be able to state that from almost all the reports, I can gather that there has been a great change in the manners and habits of the people. Where the awakening has been anything like general, there has been upon general society an awe and restraint; and I find testimony borne by employers to the effects that have been produced upon their workmen. One will say, if you doubt the reality of the revival, "Come to my workshop, and you will see what it is; if you knew my men before, come and see what they are now, and you will see that something has been at work that has produced a most salutary change." The police reports, too, are exceedingly favourable; the chief constable of one of our largest counties, which includes several towns, told me that there is a diminution of considerably more than one-third upon all that class of crimes which result from drinking, such as assaults and disorderly conduct. Then it is an undoubted fact that one class of public-houses are almost starved out. Some of the keepers of such houses themselves have come under the power of the truth, and have given up their trade; others are greatly annoyed at the move-