

The utmost care has been taken to keep the expenditure down to the lowest point consistent with the efficiency of the work. It is only by increased liberality on the part of the people that the present work can be sustained, and new enterprises embarked in.

In all parts of the world, fields, white to the harvest, are waiting for the reaper to thrust in the sickle. In China, South America, India, and Europe, most inviting fields for missionary effort present themselves. Indeed, at the present moment, there is scarcely any large section of the human race which is not more or less fully open to evangelistic agencies. Twenty short years ago, it was very different. God, in his Providence, is evidently beckoning us forward. It is for us to say whether we will refuse to reap when "the harvest of the earth is ripe," and when we know that "he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

WM. McLAREN, *Convener.*

Belleville, 19th Dec., 1868.

REVIVALS.

The word "revival" has become stereotyped, and many of our most sincere and sober-minded christian men entertain strong prejudices against the movements known by that name. They look upon a time of excitement with fear rather than with desire, lest what is false and spurious should take the place of what is real and true and permanent. The word *revival* itself is good and scriptural; but we do not defend many movements that have assumed that name. On the other hand, the history of the Church is rich in the records of real and genuine revivals—and none will question the need of a general awakening in our churches to new religious life, and vigour, and power. We grant that under the stated ministry of the Word, the kingdom of Christ has been maintained and extended—individual souls have been impressed with the power of divine truth, and drawn by the Spirit to the Father, through Christ Jesus the Mediator—and believers have been built up "in faith and holiness and comfort unto eternal life." Still the Church has not given a whole-hearted response to the call "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Amid much that is cold and worldly and lifeless in the professing Christian Church, we need to awaken to the reality of the truths about which we seem only to be dreaming now. Do we really desire a revival of religion? Are we longing to be ourselves awakened and aroused—to see those around us in large numbers brought under the power of Divine truth, and to have society pervaded by a spirit of love and self-denial, of truth and holiness? This question is a test of our own spirits. We need new spiritual life in our souls, in our duties, in our families, in our teaching and hearing, in our working and praying. In order to this we must acknowledge the sovereignty and power of Divine love,—the Holy Spirit and His grace—Jesus Christ and His cross—these are our warrants for expecting larger and more wide-spread manifestations of Divine power than we have yet seen.

There are certain evils to be carefully guarded against, to which we may briefly refer. Sometimes a kind of machinery is set in motion with the view of creating a mere excitement altogether different from the deep and solemn impressions made by "the truth as it is in Jesus." Persons of great nervous susceptibility experience a certain amount of excitement