

Revival at Elberfield, Prussia.

An extraordinary work of revival has begun in the Orphan House at Elberfield, a thriving town in Rhenish Prussia. The Orphan House contains three hundred children—male and female. The account of the awakening has been communicated to the *Patriot* by the Rev. W. Graham, of Bonn, who procured his information on the spot. His letter is dated February 11th:—The movement began visibly on January 28, by a little girl weeping over her sins, and longing for salvation; two others soon joined her, and the three went secretly into the clothes-room for prayer; they were so sad, they said,—so very sad because of their sins,—and they wanted to come to Jesus, the Friend of sinners.—Four others soon joined them, and these seven formed the first prayer-meeting among the orphans. They were about twelve years of age, and one of them was a Roman Catholic. Soon after this, four boys were found on the stairs that lead down to the cellar, in great agony of mind, and one of them in the bitterest agony was lying on the stairs, and crying loudly to Jesus for pardon. They were thus arrested on their way to the cellar in order to find a quiet place for prayer.—When they got to the cellar, they found four there before them, lying on their faces, or on their knees, crying to the Lord for mercy. Their overseer came to them, and they altogether spent the entire night in prayer. This was the first prayer-meeting among the boys. They then asked for a room to meet in, where they might not be disturbed, which was granted to them.—The next meeting numbered not eight but sixteen boys, and when they came into the room set apart for them they all simultaneously fell down on their knees, and began to cry out with awful vehemence and floods of tears for pardon, “Lord have mercy on me! Jesus, O Jesus, forgive my sins!” There was no order, no leader, in this strange meeting; but each, with incredible ardour, and as if he were alone, confessed his sins, and cried for mercy. This made a great noise, and the overseer heard it in a distant part of the house. He came directly, feeling somewhat irritated at such disorder, intending at once to put a stop to it. He entered; but there his interference

ended! He was astonished; he was overwhelmed with awe and wonder. He had never seen such earnestness, such agony depicted on the human countenance. He felt that he could do nothing, and that God alone could still the tumults of the terrified conscience. He remained, however, and gradually the tempest calmed; but not till they had made a full confession of their sins, even the most secret. This they did in the sight of God, unasked, and as if no ear but God heard them. And it is not unlikely that this was really the case; each was too earnest for himself to think of the confessions of others. However this may be, these confessions of sin form one of the most extraordinary features of this strange movement. They appointed another meeting for prayer. When the time came around one of the awakened said to his companion Boller, “Won’t you come with us to the meeting?” “No, I won’t,” said Boller, “I don’t wish to be saved! go you, if you like, but I shall go to bed!” And to bed he did go, but he became weary and restless, and when he heard the sound of prayer in the distance he rose and crept away to the meeting. As he entered they were just praying for him by name. This acted like electricity upon him, and he fell to the earth as if struck with a thunderbolt, in terrible agonies and also frightful convulsions. He remained speechless for many days; his face was dark and diabolical; his fingers bent together; his arms smote the ground with frightful vehemence, and his entire body writhed as if in mortal agonies. After five or six days he obtained perfect peace and the full conviction of the Saviour’s love. This case of Boller made a prodigious impression on the inmates of the Orphan House. It wrought like electricity on the whole of the 300 orphans; the prayer meetings became full, and now came the marvellous power of God among them in such strength and vehemence, that in one night twenty-eight boys were carried into one room where they lay in the most awful bodily and mental agonies. They were all for a time perfectly speechless; they were stricken down to the ground by some invisible power; they were all crying out for pardon of their sins as long as voice remained with them. They all made the fullest confession of their sins, even the