

## REV. J. A. JAMES, ON REVIVALS.

(Extracted from the "British Standard," being one of a series of Letters on English Revivals.)

The question now to be asked is, "What do these things say to us?" What is the voice of God which comes to us from the churches of America? What influence ought this great awakening to have upon us. The Apostle tells us that the effects of the conversion of the Jews upon the Gentile world will be "as life from the dead." Any signal work of God on one people or in one place, should be felt, and is intended to be felt, in other places and on other people. We are not to stand by, some doubting, some talking, and all wondering. God reproved some in ancient times because they considered not His works, "nor regarded the operation of His hands. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all that have pleasure therein." The wondrous phenomena of nature, the marvellous dispensations of Providence, demand attention. How much more God's stately goings in His sanctuary, the sublime manifestation of His power and grace in the field of redeeming mercy! What are the sublimities of creation, the discoveries of science, the inventions of art, compared with the conversion of souls and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth? Why, the destiny of a single soul comprehends in its eternal history more of misery or happiness, than does the temporal history of our globe, with all its millions of millions of inhabitants from its creation to its conflagration! And here is reported the conversions, within a short time, of half-a-million of such souls. Christians, here is something which should interest you as believers in God, in Christ, in salvation, in heaven, in hell, and in eternity, more than gold-fields and electric telegraphs, and all the wonders of commerce, art, and science. God, by such events as these papers refer to, is breaking in upon you, remark, and contemplate, and admire His sublimest work,—His work of grace, and also your concern in it upon earth. He has been saying to the most intensely earnest, and energetic, and commercial people upon earth, "The time is short; it remaineth that those that have riches be as though they had none, and they that weep be as though they wept not, and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not, and those that buy as though they possessed not, and those that use this world as not abusing it; for the fashion of this world passeth away." Yes, and, to a certain extent, that voice *has been heard*, amidst the din of commerce and the clamour of politics. Religion for once and for a season has made her admonitions to be heard upon the exchange, in the counting-house, in the circles of fashion, in the arena of controversy, and in the scenes of domestic life. Her works and her warnings may be again forgotten; but they have been seen and heard.

And to us, who hear only the echoes of these sounds across the Atlantic, there comes a message from God, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Why should not *we* be revived? Do we not need it? Look into the moral and spiritual condition of our country. Contemplate the masses of the population. In the metropolis, according to the last census of the population, there is provision for public worship, including Jewish and Gentile, Popish and Protestant, Unitarian and Trinitarian, for only 29 per cent. of the people, and in our own town for only 28 per cent. Then throw out those places where the Gospel is not clearly and Spiritually preached, and take the sum that remains; of *these* how few are full, how many are half-empty! The population of the borough in which I live contains about 270,000 inhabitants, and in all these, exclusive of Sunday-school children, I do not believe, notwithstanding we have between twenty and thirty churches, besides Methodist and Dissenting chapels, where the Gospel is preached, we have, on ordinary occasions, more than 40,000 ever present at one time; and of these what a proportion are yet unconverted to God! If this may be a safe guide to estimate the rate of attendance in the metropolis, there are only 400,000 out of 2,500,000 of the population, at the same time on the Sabbath, hearing the pure Gospel preached; and then, I say again, of this number how many are yet unconverted to God! I shudder at the idea. I tremble as I write, I recoil from my own calculations. This, in Protestant Eng-