

they by no means give us an adequate knowledge of the state of religion. We find, indeed, that since the returns were sent in, awakening has taken place in a number of localities. Some of these returns were sent in two or three months ago; and I find that since then there has been a decided work of the Lord going on in these places, whilst at that time they were able only to report a considerable interest in religious things. For example, at Snizort, in Syke, Mr. McLeod in the month of February, I think, reported everything cold and no appearance of awakening. We had scarcely read his reply, when it pleased the Lord to visit that district with a remarkable awakening, which, I believe, still continues. In other parts of the country the same thing has taken place. It is very interesting, to find that the reports which have been received, are spread over the whole country from Shetland to the Solway. The revival with which God has been pleased to bless us extends over the length and breadth of the land. Moderator, you and the fathers and brethren around me, are aware that, in former times Scotland has been visited with revival and awakening, but on these occasions, the revival and awakening were partial—confined to particular localities. We have heard of the great and deeply interesting revival at the Kirk of Shotts; of the revivals at Kilsyth, Dundee, and Moulin, and in the West Highlands and North Highlands; but these were confined to particular localities. It seems a blessed characteristic of the revival in our times that it is widespread. We trust that through God's sovereign grace it will yet prevail over the whole of Scotland. The indications in the reports that I have are exceedingly cheering; even where no revival is reported, it is stated that there is much prayer, much earnest listening to the Word of God, much earnest expectation and desire for the blessing; and I find that these things, in almost every instance, have preceded the awakening. I scarcely know of any instance where the awakening has not been preceded by this spirit of prayer and expectation. Then the revival has affected all classes and all denominations. The reports I have received do not allude particularly to what has been done in other denominations than the Free Church, but we know that this blessed awakening has affected many in other denominations. They too have partaken of the blessing.

"There seems in many—almost every—instance to have been a preparatory work. In our own Church, we have been looking for many years past for such a revival. Many now present must remember our exercises in the Music Hall, before we had the privilege of meeting where we are now assembled; they must recollect the earnest prayers for revival that were then offered up, our conference, and addresses connected with revival. Then in many of our congregations there was a gradual increase of the spirit of prayer, and increased expectation of revival, which was quickened when we had tidings of the Lord's great work in America and in Ireland. These tidings both excited gratitude to God, and raised expectations that He would not pass us by; and when we used the scriptural means for obtaining the benefit, they were blessed to us by God. There was an increased attention to the preaching of the Word, increased attendance at prayer meetings, and an increase in the exercise of prayer in our social circles, in our families, and in secret. And when the Lord had thus prepared us for receiving the blessing, it pleased him to pour it out very remarkably and very abundantly.

"I cannot help observing that one great means of awakening seems to have been the communicating intelligence of what the Lord had done in other places. I find in almost all the reports, that this was done with the most blessed results. The information interested the people, and brought the thing home to them: they felt it was a reality; and it excited a desire to partake of the benefit, and led them to use the means God has appointed for obtaining the benefit. I believe we can scarcely ascribe too much influence to the communication of religious intelligence in bringing about the results in which we this day rejoice. The revival throughout the country began in every variety of way, and through every variety of instrumentality, sometimes under the quiet ministrations of the stated pastor, sometimes through the visit of a stranger from a distance—some quite unknown