

ease from notes left by his father, who was a practitioner in Louisville during the time that the epidemic prevailed.

The extraordinary religious excitement, in which these nervous disorders arose, commenced in Logan County, Kentucky, under the preaching of Rev. James McGready, described as a man of "hideous visage and thunder tones," with a highly impassioned style of eloquence. The excitement soon abated, but was renewed in a more intense form three years later, and continued to grow until it reached its height about the year 1800. Families came in wagons forty, fifty and one hundred miles to attend the meetings, and it became necessary to establish camps for their accommodation. These camp meetings generally continued for four days, from Friday to Tuesday morning, but sometimes they lasted a week. They succeeded each other at frequent intervals, and thus the fervor of religious feeling was kept up. The woods and paths, leading to the camp grounds, seemed alive with people. The concourse became immense. At one of the gatherings the attendance was computed to be 20,000 persons. A spectacle presented was described by Dr. Davidson, a contemporary, in the following words: "The glare of the camp-fires falling on a dense assemblage of heads simultaneously bowed in prayer, and reflected back from long ranges of tents upon every side; hundreds of candles and lamps suspended among the trees, together with numerous torches flash-