

the work begins in earnest. One sings, another prays, another exhorts, another shouts, another talks to the prostrated victim who has bowed to the mandate of this mighty spirit. The victim groans in anguish of soul. The priest contemplates with a smile of triumph the work that he done ! The worshippers continue to pour incense upon the altar, and fan the flame of excitement, which is fast consuming the reasoning power ; and amidst this scene of confusion faith comes down, and the victim struggles into spiritual life !"

But we must keep to the subject more closely. Dr. Campbell, through President Edwards, says, " Presently upon this a great and earnest concern about the great things of religion, and the eternal world, became universal in all parts of the town, and among persons of all ages." Again he says, " Those among us that had been formerly converted were greatly enlivened and renewed with fresh and extraordinary incomes of the Spirit of God." And he says further " God has seemed to have gone out of his usual way, in the quickness of his work, and the swift progress his Spirit has made in his operations on the hearts of many." Now what do these sentences and sentiments tell us ? Are we not led from this language to believe that God appeared in a cloud of mercy immediately above the town of Northampton, and that from this cloud of special divine favour God shed upon the inhabitants of the town a very rich portion of his supernatural power, which awakened and converted sinners, and animated and enriched the saints ? Briefly expressed, this is the idea we take from the scope of the language—an idea we cannot wholly receive. What is there in it spurious ? Let us go to another town or city and find an illustration :

The apostle to the Gentiles, Paul, after making a lengthy and very successful tour in various portions of Greece and Asia, turns his face toward the Judean capital—Jerusalem, accompanied by a number of fellow labourers. He arrives in the chief city of the Jews. Subsequently to a narrative of his travels, his labours, and success which he details to the principal brethren in the Jerusalem church, he is found at the temple. Certain Jews from Asia, who it seems personally knew the apostle, " seeing him in the temple, threw all the populace in confusion, and laid hands upon him, crying out Israelites, help ! This is the man that everywhere teaches all men contrary to the people, and to the law, and to this place ; and has even brought Greeks into the temple, and polluted this holy place. And the whole city was moved, and there was a concourse of the people ; and laying hold of Paul, they dragged him out of the temple : and immediately the gates were shut.