

which is not immediately obvious, as the phenomena of the heavenly bodies, of terrestrial productions and substances, of heat or colour, etc., etc. But the phenomena in the realm of mind, and in the kingdom of God, in the soul of man, are not less remarkable, though invisible to the bodily eye, than those of the material universe; and though the "Kingdom of God cometh not with observation," its phenomena, whether established in the heart of a single individual, or of a multitude, are open to examination; and the reasons, or *philosophy*, of the work which gives them birth, may be reverently and profitably studied.

We shall first speak of the phenomena, and then of the philosophy of the revivals of religion among the early Methodists of Canada.

The new birth of every soul into the kingdom of God is not only a phenomenon, but a miracle, and is so recognized by the Church of England herself; for in the Homily on Rogation Week she says: "If, after contrition, we feel our conscience at peace with God, through the remission of our sins, it is God who worketh that *great miracle* in us." In a revival of religion, such a miracle is multiplied by scores, sometimes by hundreds and thousands, as on the day of Pentecost. All these displays of Divine power are attended with phenomena arising from the varied constitution of the human mind, and the "divers manners" in which God manifests Himself unto those whom He calls, pardons, and saves.

The first phenomenon which has arrested my attention in contemplating this wonderful work, is the *special* call and adaptation of the instruments of its commencement and promotion. From the morning of the Protestant Reformation, the candidate for the holy ministry was questioned before his ordination, "Do you trust that *you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this office and ministration to serve God*, for the promotion of His glory and the edification of His people?" But the first instruments of the Canadian work felt that they were not only "moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon them this office and ministry" in the Church of God, but they felt a Divine call to give themselves especially to the work in Canada, as did Paul and Barnabas to preach to the Gentiles, though to reach Canada they would have to travel some hundreds of miles through a wilderness, and then prosecute it through a