

## THE REVIVAL IN IRELAND.

Turning away from these scenes of woe and suffering, we contemplate another more agreeable, and emanating from a different source. We refer to the Revival of the work of God in Ireland. Many persons there were even in this country, who imagined that the results of that wondrous work would only be temporary in their duration, evanescent, passing away like the morning cloud or the early dew. There are before us from various sources evidences that this is not the case, and for this let us give God thanks. The influence of this revival on the Methodist church has been marked, powerful and progressive. We prefer however in this notice of the Irish Revival to state what has been done, or is doing in the Presbyterian Church. *Kirwan*, i. e., the Rev. N Murray, D.D., has lately visited Ireland, and has conveyed to the Presbyterians of America, his impressions of what in that country he saw or heard of the fruits of this great work of God. He says,—

“1. There is an obvious change in the spirit and tone of the ministry of the country, and this the ministry itself admits. The spirit of journalism, and of party strife, and of sectarian controversy, have been supplanted by a feeling of brotherly love, and of prayer. We have never seen ministers more earnest, more fraternal in their intercourse, or more constant in their efforts to do good to the souls of men. And to those who can compare the present with the past state of the ministry in these respects, the change seems wonderful. As to the Established Church, there are many sore evils yet to be remedied, and many lets and hindrances to the Gospel yet to be removed; but the number of its evangelical ministers is greatly on the increase, and the race of worldly, drinking, fox-hunting ministers, who sought the fleece more than the souls of their flocks, is proportionably diminishing. Some of the loveliest christian ministers with whom we have met belonged to the establishment. And, without a tincture of the heresy of Puseyism, they mingle with their

brethren in the works of faith and the labors of love

“2. The number of communicants has been greatly increased. In some cases they have been doubled, in some quadrupled. One minister, of the Presbytery of Ballymena, says that he can reckon conversions not merely by tens and fifties, but by hundreds. Another says that nearly one-half of the adults of his congregation have been converted; and such is the uniform testimony of Presbyterian ministers all over the province of Ulster.

“3. There has been a very great increase of the numbers attending public worship. In some places the number has been doubled. The Presbytery of Coleraine, whose narrative of the state of religion to the Synod lies before me, says: ‘All the churches are filled from Sabbath to Sabbath with audiences of whom the ministers report that their deep and earnest and intelligent attention, would of itself furnish cause of thanksgiving, and very hopeful anticipation.’ And as a consequence of this wonderful increase of worshippers, new churches are rising in every direction.

“4. The activity of the membership of the churches has been marvelously increased. This increased activity is apparent in the establishment of family prayer meetings,—in the vast increase of Sabbath School scholars and teachers,—and in the earnest efforts of the pious to bring their friends to Christ. ‘Family worship is all but universally reported to be the rule, and no longer the exception. One minister reports that he knows but seven families in his congregation where there is no family altar.’ ‘There are more than one hundred prayer meetings within the bounds of the Presbytery, regularly held, and well attended.’ And these meetings for prayer are mainly conducted by the elders and members of the church, and the recent converts,—who, as a rule, show great zeal in seeking to lead others to the Saviour. And there are those who go from house to house, seeking to persuade their neighbors and friends to make their peace with God.’ The Presbytery of Ballymena reports: ‘Local meetings for prayer and exhortation are still numerous and well attended. Upwards of seventy are reputed to be held weekly, within the bounds of one congregation. Most of these meetings are conducted by laymen. Multitudes of young men, who could not have ven-