

to soul-saving; — the splendor of pulpit eloquence, which drew the admiration of the wicked, rather than the plain, pointed sermon, and the direct aim at the consciences of the ungodly; — the neglect of visiting from house to house, and vigorous efforts in the prayer-meeting, after preaching, for the conversion of penitents; — all of which are absolutely necessary to the commencement and continuation of a revival.

Some societies owe such painful pauses to laxity of discipline, — allowing backsliders and hypocrites to remain in church fellowship, — winking at the neglect of class-meetings, and other means of grace. "The wealthy are necessary to us; — numbers are creditable to us. If we expel Mr. * * *, and Mrs. * * *, and * * *, they will leave our congregation, and attend the preaching of a minister of another denomination." Thus the Spirit of God is grieved, and no revival is obtained; while other branches of the same church are favored again and again with gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

"In case of the long absence of a revival, when the fault has not been in the church, or when she has repented, and is everything God would have her be, in order to a revival, what do you suppose is the prevalent state of feeling among the members?" I cannot give you a better answer than the following extract from a letter, written by one of our ministers, for the revival department of the New York Christian Advocate and Journal, previous to my leaving America for Europe: "We are obediently waiting, anxiously looking, fervently praying, confidently hoping, and every day living, for a revival of the work of God in our charge." Nor is it likely they remained long in such a state of preparation, without an ingathering of converted souls to their ranks.

Take the following account of another revival: "The friends of the Redeemer will everywhere rejoice, that Lexington has been visited by the Lord in mercy, — so lately the scene of judgment sickness, death. Still, of thousands, it may be well said . . .

Mercies and judgments have alike been slighted."

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