

•speak correctly, we may at least mark some of the larger class of blunders common to those favourites called the populars, and in the mean time put ourselves to school with others who are disposed to learn.

Let us go now to Northampton and listen to President Edwards. (See last Number—page 220) He says, referring to a former period, “It was in the latter part of December that the Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in, and wonderfully to work amongst us.” Some observing person has hinted that what is usually called a revival has never been known to occur at any season of the year but in autumn or winter; and here, sure enough, it was about the end of December that the Spirit descended and visited the town of Northampton. This circumstance in itself may appear trifling but it is really of consequence. When viewed in its bearings it goes to show that the occupations and pursuits of men—their times of activity in temporal business or otherwise—have something to do with what is termed the descent of the Spirit. Why is not this gracious, this more than earthly, more than ordinary influence of the Spirit, present among men during the busy months of spring and summer? Can any reason be given why a revival seldom or ever happens excepting during the season of cold weather? Nothing is more readily solved: preachers have not the opportunity, people have not the leisure, to get up large meetings, praying conferences, and continued exhorting seasons, to create the requisite warmth and emotion of soul which prepare the way and finally constitute the chief elements of a ‘happy revival.’ How far this shows the agency of man in the making of these seasons of refreshing, we stop not to enquire,—nor are we disposed to analyze these revival conversions to show how much of the influence belongs to the spirit of man and what amount of the influence belongs to the Spirit of God; but we do say that there is much to be considered in the fact that revivals and warm weather seldom come together! A writer in the state of Alabama so justly describes the main ingredients in a revival, that we shall be excused for listening to him in this connexion. He says:—

“A short discourse is delivered, in which the understanding is untouched. An inflammatory exhortation is delivered, in which the dying father and mother of the auditors are brought vividly before their minds. Hell is uncapped, and the flames of Tophet are fanned by the eloquence of the speaker, until they glow with intense heat—the passions are lashed into an intense excitement! Then is the time to make the call for the convicted, and the process for imparting faith is now commenced. Now you may see the priest fully under the influence of this mighty spirit; and behold his worshippers crowding to his altar, to offer to his shrine the best feelings of their hearts. Now