

Courts, important movements in different Presbyteries both within the bounds of this Synod and beyond it, the concern on the subject in the minds of Christian people, all seem to echo the prophet's words, "There is a sound of abundance of rain." Some of us think that, like the waiting king, we hear "the sound of a going on the tops of the mulberry trees"—that perhaps the Lord thus announces to us that the time to favor Zion is come—and that He thus calls upon us to push our advantage and go forward. If we interpret the signs aright, clearly we ought, like David, to bestir ourselves; for the Lord goes out before us. The present, therefore, seems a suitable time to enquire what are the things essential to a revived religious life in the Church. I venture, as the result of some thought and reading on the subject, to express the belief that four things, of which I wish to speak in this paper, are the certain and invariable preludes or accompaniments of every great work of grace. Wherever these things have been wanting, there the Church's life has been low. Wherever they have existed, there mighty victories for Christ have usually been won. It will be admitted also that the things to which I refer are within the reach of all, and that, therefore, it ought to be the ambition—the fixed, invincible determination of all, by God's grace, to possess them.

"1. The first essential to a revived religious life amongst us of which I would speak, is a *previous expectation of the blessing and some previous desire for its coming*. I do not know that any great revival has ever taken place without these signs preceding. The expectation might be very vague, and the desire limited to a very small-number; but such desire and expectation seem always to have preceded any new era of spiritual life and victory. As a case in point I have but to mention Pentecost. The Disciples wait for the promise of the Spirit; they earnestly desire His coming. They return to the upper room, and continue expecting the fulfilment of His promise. That heaven-born desire is a prophecy—that attitude of high and rapt expectancy is a pledge that a true revival is coming. Each one in the long succession of awakenings with which the church has been blessed furnishes like proof."

Mr. Donald then proceeded to give illustrations of this truth, from the life of W. C. Burns, the story of the Welch revivals, &c. He went on to say:

"Devoid of this expectation and desire, we cannot magnify, we cannot even justify our office. If we are to be true to our King and true to ourselves, we must, as ministers and elders, attain to such views of the Spirit's work and of the exalted possibilities of the Church's future as shall make us look and long for breaking clouds, for copious showers, and for a consequent revival of the Lord's heritage when it is weary. And let it be remembered that the connection between the expectant desire of the blessing and the reception of it is not casual or accidental. It is a law founded in the nature of things. As the warm current of the Gulf stream modifies the temperature of the region through which it flows, so this expectant desire of sovereign awakening grace, appears to raise the temperature of the soul, to dissolve the frost and snow of the heart, and to make it possible for God's spiritual works to come forth in vernal freshness and beauty.

"2. A second element, vital and altogether essential to a revival, is *genuine care for souls*—a consuming anxiety respecting their salvation. This anxiety is born of love and knowledge. The knowledge I mean is that of the soul's value and of its extreme danger. Every one must see that this combined love and knowledge ought to fill all Christian people and especially all Christian a ministers, as with a hunting passion, with a high