

REVIVALS.

One of the marked features of this church is that it has been blessed with an almost continuous revival. This has arisen from the nature and power of Mr. Finney's preaching on the one hand, and from the great number of young and impressible minds, gathered here for purposes of education on the other. Almost every term witnessed the conversion of great numbers of students, till it came to be a proverb that no one could remain in Oberlin without becoming a christian. Rising, however, above this general level of spiritual power, there are scattered all along the history of the church many "great awakenings." One or two of these may be referred to in passing. Perhaps the most powerful and extensive occurred in 1850. Mr. Finney was at the time in England, engaged in revival work there. Feeling himself surrounded with prejudices awakened by the foreign correspondence of theological opponents in this country, he wrote, imploring the church of Oberlin to pray for him and his work. They did so, and their prayer was "returned into their own bosom." From the gatherings here to pray for souls in England, there came upon the people a sense of their own need, and thus began one of the greatest works of grace ever witnessed here. Rev. Geo. Clark, one of the first graduates from the Oberlin Theological Seminary, and a successful Evangelist, was invited to take charge of the work. Through ten weeks he preached and held other meetings daily, awakening, arousing, convicting, directing sinners, till, by the blessing of God, more than three hundred—mostly students—were converted to Christ. This was followed by a similar work, though not so extensive, in 1851-2, on Mr. Finney's return.

The church records show still another unusually large ingathering in 1863. Then came what is still spoken of as