

places, among which, according to the opinion of such men as Dr. Cairns, Dr. Thompson, and Dr. Bonar, is to be reckoned this great awakening which, beginning in Edinburgh, is now spreading over Scotland, and which seems to possess most of the marks of a true revival given us by Zechariah.

HOW TO OBTAIN A REVIVAL.

This question, Isaiah, under another figure, answers for us. There is no true revival without the presence of the King of glory: and for His coming roads must be prepared. "*Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted; and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.*" Isa. xl. 4, 5. That the Church may be revived, her King must come; that He may come, a road, becoming His glory, must be made: that the road may become His glory, it must have four perfections. 1. *Valleys must be exalted.* What is this but to fill up neglected duties, to bring back the Bible to its proper place, to set up worship in our families, to keep the Sabbath holy to God, to hold up Christ more fully in our preaching? 2. *Every mountain and hill must be made low.* What is this but to lower in the dust our pride, our philosophy, our self-righteousness, and to become like little children in disposition? 3. *The crooked must be made straight.* What is this but to give up our conformity to the world in our thinking, in our acting, and instead of miserable expediency, to make conscience and right the rule of life? 4. *The rough places plain.* What is this but to keep our hearts always in a good frame, to fill up the ruts made during the week by the wheels of the world, and to be always looking for the coming of our Lord? Let us prepare such a road, and the glory of the Lord shall

be revealed, and all flesh shall see it, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

THOUGHTS ON SOIREES.

At a time when the Evangelical Churches of the world are waking up to a higher spiritual life and to closer conflict with worldliness and wickedness, it seems very natural to ask the question, if there is amongst us in Canada "any unlawful striving," any fighting not in accordance with God's rules for warfare; any fighting with wrong weapons, in wrong company and on wrong issues.

Our Soiree system, a great institution in country districts, the one great leading church excitement in our winter months, what of it and how will it stand the test of Scripture?

Tea and cake are useful baits in the hands of the noble company of Christian workers who are gathering into schools and homes the hungry Arabs of the large cities of Britain. Nor are tea and cakes to be despised as an attraction to make the congregational meeting a success when office-bearers wish to interest members in church work, though it were to be wished that there was less of this "tea-pot religion," as a wag calls it, among us. But the common *Soiree*, got up to draw a promiscuous audience, to please everybody, to make money for carrying on Christ's work, is an evil which can be excused or winked at only because of the "hardness of our hearts."

This Soiree system is a heavy yoke on the shoulders of ministers of the gospel. A gospel minister has professional duties to attend to, as much more weighty and pressing than the professional duties of doctors and lawyers, as eternity is above time. The gospel minister should be a man of study, a man of meditation, a man of prayer. It is his duty to see that the young are well taught in the Scriptures: that the erring sheep of his flock are sought out and brought back: that