

excuse us from doing his work, when the evidences of a revival having commenced are convincing, because we have much of our own to attend to. This remark will apply to local preachers and class leaders, as well as to ministers,—I mean, as it regards their coöperation with the Holy Spirit, when he comes down to revive his work. Suppose that you had a servant, and he should neglect your business, and, when pressed for his reasons, should excuse himself on account of having so much of his own to manage;—what would you do? “I would discharge him at once!” Doubtless you would; and who could blame you? Has not something like this happened to not a few in ——— since the occurrence? Have not some backslidden both from work and wages, while others have been singularly laid aside? Are there not others, who might do good, but who are standing idle in the Lord’s vineyard, having apparently neither the will nor power to work; while a few are doing something, “feebly,” but the “fruits are hidden”? Now, the disapprobation of the Lord is not always expressed thus, as in ———; but where the call of God to enter into a revival effort has been plain, and neglected through love of money, pleasure, or idleness, there is, usually, a barrenness among the people, and a humiliating want of success in the “ordinary means.”

You inquire, “But are there not frequent intervals of a painful character, between one revival and another, in some of your American societies?” Yes. “If so, what are the usual causes?” They are various; but I have known instances, where we could assign no other reason than the unbelief and impenitency of sinners. In most, however, the causes were very evident to all who had the work of God at heart. Love of ease, money, pleasure, honor, among professors of religion, rather than an ardent and laborious desire for the conversion of perishing sinners. A self-indulgent and indolent spirit; a decrease or loss of holiness, humility, and dependence upon God, on the part of the official members of the church,—local preachers, class-leaders and prayer-leaders. And last, though not least, the absence of the revival spirit and zeal from the hearts of the ministers, who, in some instances, have preferred ease and books