

brethren whose visit had brought them quickening have passed on to other places. "Awake, O north wind," is the voice that is now in the ear of the Edinburgh churches. The trees that were gorgeous with deceitful blossoms will now be stripped by the "north wind that driveth away rain," and all untimely flowers will lie scattered on the ground. Heat and rain, warmth and moisture, clouds and closeness, ripen no fruit sweetly, and prepare no tree for vigorous bearing. A hot-house atmosphere is not the climate for the cedar and the olive, no, nor even for the palm and the pomegranate. The searching, invigorating, purifying "north wind" must do its work before our "Beloved" can be invited into His garden "to eat His pleasant fruit." This is, therefore, a critical time in the history, not simply of Edinburgh, but of the evangelical churches of Britain. If Edinburgh go *backward*, we may despair of the cause of evangelical truth in Scotland for this generation: if it go *forward*, we can hardly over-estimate the blessings that are in store for the land. There is evidence, and it gives us joy to state here some of it, that it is forward and not backward the capital of Scotland is to move from this awakening. It is indeed the opinion of parties competent to judge, that the amount of work done since Messrs. Moody and Sankey left Edinburgh exceeds what was done during the time of their visit. Here are facts of encouraging and joyful import.

1. *Young Communicants.* In nearly all the churches of Edinburgh, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed quarterly. It is only what might be expected that many young people would have applied for admission to the Lord's Supper in January last, when the excitement and fervour of this religious awakening was at its height. It happens, however, that in *number* and in *quality*, the young communicants of the April quarter exceed

those of January, and go beyond anything known in the experience of Edinburgh pastors. "*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of the youth; happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*" (Psalm cxxvii. 4, 5).

2. *Little Children.* Saturday forenoon, so as not to interfere with school-work, has been given to the children: and their place of meeting is the Assembly Hall, one of the largest halls in the city, capable of seating upwards of two thousand people. It is thus one of the Edinburgh daily newspapers describes this gathering:—

"Saturday forenoon has always been appropriated to the young. It is a striking sight to see them gathering, and still more so to see the meeting dispersing at one o'clock. The whole slope of the Mound is darkened by the mass of little figures, with their parents and friends; or, if a few minutes after you are walking in the opposite direction, you meet them on George IV. Bridge, you observe them crossing the Meadows, you find them in Princes Street, or Lothian Road, or Leith Walk, knowing where they have been by the hymn books which they are carrying in their hands. Nothing can be more remarkable than the interest and affection which the young people have for this meeting. If it be not preferred to the ordinary holiday occupations of Saturday, it seems at least to be liked as well. The simple and affectionate words which they hear, the hymns which they sing with a relish that never abates, and the atmosphere and spirit of the place, have a wonderful attraction. Even the standing room in the Assembly Hall is occupied on Saturdays; you require to go early to secure a seat. The love of Jesus for the young is the great theme of these meetings, and often His voice seems to fall on the ear with a peculiar power and sweetness inviting little children as of old to come unto Him."

3. *Reading the Bible.* Shortly after Mr. Moody arrived in England, a little paragraph in one of the religious monthlies of England met our eye and set us a-thinking. It was the substance of a statement Mr. Moody had then made, to the effect that he was resolved