

into this life, we shall be brought into loving contact with the Lord Jesus, and we shall exercise an influence on human life and destiny which will be all important. Every conversion is a miracle; every spiritual conquest is a manifestation of the supernatural, and the Church of God to-day is the very representative of Christ on earth. I preached last Sabbath morning on a little incident in the Old Testament. The armies of Judah and Israel went out to war with the armies of Moab, and they found themselves in a waterless valley. For many miles not a single rill or rivulet was to be found to slake their parching thirst. By Elisha they are told to dig the valley full of trenches and they would be filled. Dear friends, is the valley dry, is the ground parched? I would commend you, then, in the name of the Lord Jesus to fill the valley full of trenches. Let the valleys of your desolation be filled with those avenues into which the love of God can flow, and it shall be known in Toronto that there is yet a God in Israel.

MR. MOODY.—A great many people have very strong prejudices against revivals. One reason is because they believe a revival means a strong effort for just a few weeks and then all the rest of the year the Church is doing nothing. I do not think that is what we mean by a revival; I do not mean that. That kind of work is an abomination to God and man. People say, "O those Christians wake up and stay awake for one or two weeks in the year; they are very active to save sinners, and then they cool down, and for the rest of the year they don't know you." People have a right to be prejudiced against that kind of work. If it is God working, it is going to last; it is a state of things that will be with us 355 days in the year. That is the kind of revival the Church wants; it is not a spasmodic effort. It is very true what our brother has said about the prevalence of the idea that there is a certain time when God will come and do this work, and that we have got to wait until this time comes round. That is another false idea. You do not get that idea from Scripture. God's time is when you and I go to work. God is always ready, and he would rather give than receive. If we are ready to receive something from Him, and the Churches ready and waiting for a blessing, there will be a constant giving from God. I think I should read the connection in which this idea is brought out in Scripture. You will find it in the 302nd Psalm—"Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion, for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof." That is the set time—when we take pleasure in the Lord's work. There is one denomination in the United States whose report last year showed four or five hundred churches that did not bring one soul to Christ, not a solitary soul admitted on profession of faith. Those churches, as a general rule, are the churches that preach against revivals, and they seem to think that the normal state is to go to sleep and let the world perish. It is dishonoring to God to take such grounds, and for a Church of God to be twelve months without a soul added to it by profession of faith shows that it is without life. This condition comes from the fact that we do not believe that God can revive his work and save souls at any time. We have got the idea that there will be a periodical time, about one in twenty years. Some one was telling me that he did not think there would be much work done for another twenty years. He said a great work was done in 1857 and 1858, that it had been repeated again to some extent, but it would not again take place until God's favorite time had come. A great many people have the idea that the time is coming and that all we have to do is

to wait. If you find a Church that is in a revived state, or a Church that is watching for souls, you will find souls enquiring in that Church. If you find a Christian praying for souls, you will find that God gives that man souls. So that the fault I find lies with us; we do not really believe. People complain that at times of revival many things are done out of the regular order. I think we want some things done out of the regular order. We have had too much order and regularity lately. When the real breath of heaven comes down there will be a little disorder. You will always find order where there is death. You will find order in a cemetery, but let there be a resurrection, and there will soon be disorder and confusion. If the Holy Spirit comes He will make a channel for Himself. We have not to dictate how the Spirit shall come. See how God moved out of the regular line in dealing with Elijah, Elisha and Eldad. When our civil war broke out we had to call out the irregulars—the volunteers—for the regular army was of little account. We need something of the same kind in regard to the Gospel, we require men who do not know much about theology, and let them preach in school houses, and cottages, act, it may be, a little out of the regular line. In all ages God has been reviving His church. At the time God brought the Israelites out of the Red Sea, God was reviving His own people. The people were renewed under Samuel and under Jehoshaphat, and in all ages God has been reviving His people. You talk about nations being suddenly moved. I do not think any nation was ever moved as was Palestine under John the Baptist and Jesus. Think of the irregular things done while Christ was on earth. It is always a mystery how a man with a Bible before him can condemn revivals. Why all our churches are born of revivals. The Roman Catholic Church says it is apostolic. If so it was born at the Pentecost, right in the heat of a revival. If the claim of the Episcopal Church is right, she was born at the time of Pentecost. The Methodist Church was born at the time of the revivals of the time of Wesley and Whitfield. The Quakers are the result of Fox's revivals. Every denomination is the child of a revival. Why to speak against revivals is like a man talking against his mother. Four-fifths of this audience were converted in times of revival, yet people are afraid that something may be done in such times out of the regular line. I remember going into one place where the minister dreaded the excitement of a revival. Yet he one night led a dance in a public hall and called off the figures until five in the morning. But he preached against excitement. If stocks and bonds went up 25% there would be great excitement in the United States, Canada and England, but it would not be called an unhealthy state of things. A similar result would follow if corn went up 25 cents a bushel. What Canada and the United States want to-day is a revival in business honesty. When we see men falling in all positions in life, some of them closely connected with churches, it should drive us into the dust before God. Our cry day and night should be, Lord revive our work. How a man who believe in the Bible can talk against revivals is a mystery to me. It is, I repeat, a scriptural thing, and God in all ages, I repeat, has been renewing His church. Why should not our cry be, "O God, revive me," then I may be used to quicken someone else. That was the way in which the revivals of 1857-8, which spread all over the country, and which began with two or three, just a little company. A revival may begin right here in Toronto in some poor widow's cottage. It is to be noticed that in the great revival that spread over the country in 1857-8 no man stood out prominent, but it was