

that is to overthrow his kingdom of darkness. It is never the case, therefore, that his agents give prominence to the Bible as one and undivided. They may choose portions of it to suit themselves; but a calm, liberal, unbiassed study of the whole book in the spirit of Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," is never a mark of the spirit of error.

That is a true work of grace (4) WHICH MAKES MEN TRUTHFUL AND LOVERS OF WHAT IS TRUE. This mark is suggested by the last words of the 6th verse: "The spirit of truth and the spirit of error." When we see the spirit that is at work among a people making them more sensible than they used to be that there is a God, that He hates sin, that life is short and uncertain, that they must give an account of themselves before the judgment seat of God, when we find these convictions influencing men's conduct, giving consistency and seriousness to all their actions, and moulding their lives after a higher model, then may we safely conclude that the spirit that produces such effects is the spirit of God. Satan is a liar, and the father of lies, and his kingdom a kingdom of darkness, which is upheld by causing men to see things, not as they are, but as he paints them. When the mist begins to disperse, though men were still seen like trees walking, it is a sign of the coming of the day.

That is a true work of grace (5) WHICH OPERATES AS A SPIRIT OF LOVE TO GOD AND MAN. This we learn from the 6th verse to the end of the chapter: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth

God." But under this head we quote the very words of our author;

"When the spirit that is at work amongst the people brings them to high and exalting thoughts of the Divine Being and His glorious perfections, and works in them an admiring, delightful sense of the excellency of Jesus. . . . The spirit that excites to love on these motives, and makes the attributes of God as revealed in His gospel and manifested in Christ delightful objects of contemplation; and makes the soul to long after God and Christ, after their presence and communion, acquaintance with them and conformity to them, and to live so as to please and honour them; the spirit that quells contentions among men, and gives a spirit of peace and good-will, excites to acts of outward kindness and earnest desires of the salvation of souls, and causes a delight in those that appear as the children of God and followers of Christ: I say when a spirit operates after this manner among a people, there is the highest kind of evidence of the influence of a true and divine spirit."

These are plain, scriptural tests of revivals of religion. It is not to be expected that these marks can be present in the same manner and to the same degree in every instance of revival that comes under our notice. Neither can we hope to see such work altogether free from irregularities. The fruits of the earth are first green before they are ripe. But a revival that cannot to a reasonable degree stand the test of the Word of God as stated in the above five marks, given by the Apostle John by which to try the spirits, ought not to be accepted as a genuine work of God.