

truth, are men and guns, without fire. We want in this age, above all wants, fire, God's holy fire, burning in the hearts of men, stirring their brains, impelling their emotions, thrilling on their tongues, glowing in their countenances, vibrating in their actions, expanding their intellectual powers more than can ever be done by the heats of genius, of argument or of party; and fusing all their knowledge, logic, and rhetoric into a burning stream. Every accessory, every instrument of usefulness, the church has now in such a degree and of such excellence as was never known in any other age; and we want but a supreme and glorious baptism of fire to exhibit to the world such a spectacle as would raise ten thousand hallelujahs to the glory of our King. Let but this baptism descend, and thousands of us who, up to this day, have been but common-place or weak ministers, such as might easily pass from the memory of mankind, would then become mighty. Men would wonder at us, as if we had been made anew; and we should wonder, not at ourselves, but at the grace of God which could thus transform us."

"Suppose we saw an army sitting down before a granite fort, and they told us they intended to batter it down: we might ask them, "How?" They point to a cannon-ball. Well, but there is no power in that; it is heavy, but not more than half a hundred, or perhaps a hundred, weight: if all the men in the army hurled it against the fort, they would make no impression. They say, "No; but look at the cannon." Well, there is no power in that. A child may ride upon it, a bird may perch in its mouth; it is a machine, and nothing more. "But look at the powder." Well, there is no power in that; a child may spill it, a sparrow may peck at it. Yet this powerless powder, and powerless ball, are put into the powerless cannon;—one spark of fire enters it; and then, in the twinkling of an eye, that powder is a flash of lightning, and that ball a thunderbolt, which smites as if it had been sent from heaven. So is it with our Church machinery at this day: we have all the instruments necessary for pulling down strongholds, and O for the baptism of fire!"

REVIVALS.

The best descriptions of battles are from men on the field. Facts there recounted become reliable, and instruction valuable. The work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, over which I am placed, having taken the form of a most precious revival, I thought some of the views which lay so freshly before my mind might be interesting to some ministering brother whose mind is anxious upon the matter of revivals, as mine has been for years. I feel the more inclined also to say a word upon the subject, as it has not been taken up in the *Independent*, at least for some time.

The first great question so often asked is, Are revivals necessary to the highest welfare of a Church? That it were better to have a Church *always* in a revival state cannot be doubted. But, as Rev. Dr. Wallace of Manchester, N. H., once said to me, "when the earth is dry let us have rain in any shape." What pastor who has learned how cold a Church may become in