

religion have taken place during the past year throughout the bounds of the Church. But they have learned, with deep thankfulness, that in several congregations and districts, where no such movement had before taken place, the Lord has strikingly manifested the quickening and saving power of His grace and spirit." And then follow various details from different quarters of the land. As, *e.g.*, it is stated that "all, or nearly all, the congregations in the Synod of Fife—an extensive and populous district of the country—had enjoyed a season of awakening and revival." Had we as a Church, in Canada, the half to tell, in any one year, of all the good which is contained in that report, we should consider that most assuredly the Lord had visited us in mercy, and sent to his weary heritage a plenteous rain.

It is quite plain that the revival in Scotland thirteen years ago, permanently raised the standard of Christian duty in the thoughts and hearts of the Christian people—both ministers and members of the Church. Very many began to find it in their heart to labor for Christ in a more direct and effective way than ever before. The wisdom begotten by the love of Christ, which glowed in many a soul, enabled them to devise new modes of operation, and infused the requisite energy to sustain them. That time of revival became the starting point of a multitude of evangelistic efforts, which, continued until this day, are constantly reaping fruit unto life eternal.

A very striking report was given in to the same Assembly, three years ago, by a Committee of which Dr. Candlish was the convener, upon the "employment of evangelistic laborers." He found, in answer to extensive enquiry, that a large number, amounting to some hundreds, were accustomed to engage in such work; godly elders, were known and respected in their own locality, fervent young men who would thus employ their spare time, and a few who had given themselves wholly to the work, and were supported by those who sympathized with them. The Committee were not able to secure anything like complete information upon the subject of their enquiry. The returns sent to them, though revealing such a large amount of active effort in evangelistic work, gave after all but an imperfect and inadequate idea of all that was being done. They had enough, however, clearly to ascertain certain facts as proved, which are stated in these terms:

"In the first place, there is abundant evidence that during the last ten years, in all parts of the country, the Lord has, both in connection with and apart from the labors of the regular ministry, made much use of lay evangelistic agency for the conversion of souls. In many cases a manifest blessing has followed addresses and prayer-meetings conducted in whole or in part by such men, not only by those experienced in the Christian life, but by some who were but recently converted. This result is still being observed in many parts of the country.

"Further—the Committee have found it all but the universal testimony that the most solid and abiding results have been found in those cases where the ministers from the first welcomed and encouraged such assistance, presided at their meetings, and exercised a kind and pastor-like oversight."

Now, in the continued fruitfulness of that great movement in Scotland, in the permanency of its results, and in those perennial showers of blessing, which have never ceased to gladden the heritage of God, we can, for one thing, see the desirableness and propriety of those special evangelistic efforts, upon which the Lord has vouchsafed so large a blessing, and which have then one of the chosen outward means to work out so great and blessed a result.