

gations are very feeble, for what is in a great measure left to them, through the unhappy political condition of the country, the maintenance of the ministry, and the raising up of missionaries and ministers for the growing spiritual wants of the province. And so the question may well be anxiously put, "By whom shall Jacob arise for he is small?" The answer is to be found in that Divine Oracle, "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." The Holy Spirit is all powerful in the Church. Moved by Him, the handful of the restored captive Jews, were enabled to repair the desolations of Zion. By His influence the followers of the crucified Son of God were enabled to carry the doctrines of the cross throughout the length and breadth of the Roman world, and to gain a homage to them from the imperial power itself. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, at the reformation, the corruptions of christianity, that had been increasing and consolidating for a thousand years, were dissipated, as the snows and ice of winter disappear before the breath of spring.—And Scotland, of all the nations of Christendom, then furnished the fullest proof of what the Word of God, as the instrument of the Divine Spirit, can effect in transforming men, and diffusing peace, civilization, and comfort throughout a community.

That same spirit can alone meet all the exigencies of the church in these lands and at this time. Let us but enjoy a more copious measure of his influence, and then, we shall behold an energy in the ministrations of the word and ordinances such as we have never before seen. Formal and lukewarm professors will be transformed into humble, devoted, and self-denying believers, and believers who are now doubtful in regard to their own character and privileges, and weak and joyless will become established, active and cheerful. The young who are now in many instances going forth from baptized households, to mingle in the world and to be swallowed up in its pollutions, would then happily avow themselves to be the Lord's, and number themselves among his people, and the intemperate, the profligate, the profane, and covetous, who now live amongst christians with as much apparent security and ease as though they had obtained a dispensation from the tremendous responsibilities which a revelation from God lays upon men, would we may believe, in many instances be brought to flee from "the wrath to come," and shelter themselves under the Saviour. Then should the preaching of the word and the administration

of discipline be greatly honored and revered. Purity, harmony, peace, and love, would prevail in families and congregations. And the resources of industry undrained by folly or dissipation would be liberally consecrated to maintain amongst us "and diffuse around us" useful knowledge, learning and religion. It is the full and universal effusion of the Holy Spirit that is to cause the Millennium. And the church or community that is greatly under his influence has an earnest of that long hoped for age.

May we then wisely seek by repentance and importunate prayer for the Holy Spirit, the comforter, to descend upon us and on all the churches of the Saviour. How gracious and encouraging is that promise—"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.—They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn and grow as the vine, the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon."—Hosea xiv. 4—9.

II. *The awakening which more or less pervades every branch of the Protestant church may well stir us up to seek a religious revival.*

During the last half century an amazing change for the better has passed upon the Protestant Church. That lethargy interrupted only by internal dissensions into which she had sunk has been to a great extent shaken off. A zeal for sound doctrine has revived, and vast efforts are made to give the Holy Scriptures, and preach the glorious gospel, to every nation under Heaven. And these very efforts are in every way favorable to an increased revival in the churches who make them. Even the want of any great success in converting the heathen world turns out for a benefit, inasmuch, as that it throws christians back on a more entire dependence on the Spirit of God, and urges the searching inquiry—Wherefore it is that he does not go forth with his servants, to subdue the world unto his Son. It is in part, at least, thro' a process of this kind, that the churches in Britain and the United States are bestirring themselves to advance the work of internal reformation. Revivals indeed have been known in the latter, since the first occupancy of the soil by the expatriated Puritans, and in Scotland since the days of the reformation. But many christians in all quarters of the United Kingdom and in all the branches of the Protes