

## REVIVALS IN LONDON.

An excellent lecture—one of a winter series by various gentlemen—was not long since delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association, at Exeter Hall. The subject was "Revivals," and the Rev. John Stoughton of Kensington was the lecturer. Midway in his discourse he paused, and requested that the hymn might be sung, beginning—

"Lord, I hear of showers of blessing,  
Thou art scattering full and free;  
Showers the thirsty land refreshing,  
Let some droppings fall on me,  
Even me."

The vast audience entered heart and soul into the song, and the effect was deeply solemnizing.

That "some droppings" at least continue to fall on this metropolis is to be thankfully acknowledged. That the true people of God are largely more earnest and spiritual, and more entirely in practical harmony with the Saviour's compassion for perishing souls, I cannot doubt. The *prayer of faith*, the expectation of blessing, the ceasing to limit the Holy One of Israel, as well as personal direct dealing with the unconverted, are now more than ever before.

Two things are worthy of notice in connection with "the additional theatre services," namely—1st, Large *Saturday evening* prayer meetings to crave a blessing—sometimes as many as from 600 to 1000 attending—and written requests for prayer read out in numbers, and at once responded to. 2ndly, After the preaching on the Lord's-day evening, meetings for prayer and conversation are held, and many who have been previously impressed are thus led into the light and liberty of the sons of God.

In truth, the power of prayer has been largely tested and realized in connection with ragged schools and refuges. The first fruits were seen last year, and will be still more apparent ere long. The teachers of Field Lane hold a meeting for prayer every Saturday evening from half-past 7 till half-past 8 o'clock. In addition to the teachers, most of the inmates of the Female Refuge attend. Free prayer—that is, no one is called to engage—is the rule. "It has proved to all," says Mr. Hytche, "a real time of refreshing; and to this season of united prayer, I am disposed to refer the recent cases of conversion in the Ragged Church."

A peculiar blessing continues to attend the addresses to young people, delivered from time to time by some of the older lads employed at the Woolwich Arsenal, under the

superintendence of Captain Orr of the Royal Artillery. Some months ago, they were at Bristol assisting Mr. Reginald Radcliffe in his evangelistic labours. At present they are occupied in occasional labour in and around London, chiefly on the Lord's-day and Saturday evenings, when they are not at their ordinary employment in the arsenal.

In the Sabbath school in which the writer is especially interested, tokens of a work of grace begun had manifested themselves for some time past. One and another of the Bible classes, and from among the elder girls and youths in the school, had given themselves first to the Lord, and then publicly professed their faith and love at his table. In addition to this, a spirit of anxiety and seriousness had so far manifested itself, that, whereas formerly the meetings held on the afternoon of the Lord's-day when the school broke up, were attended only by teachers, within the last twelve months, the scholars, in considerable numbers, remained also. When, therefore, these young messengers of Christ appeared one afternoon (without previous announcement) and spoke to the children, the result showed that the soil of many hearts had been previously prepared for the seed. While no outward or noisy excitement was produced by the addresses—so affectionate, simple, and solemn—such was the effect, that a proposal being made for conversation with the anxious, about forty boys and girls repaired at once to the separate rooms. Since then the work of grace has made progress, but it is premature to speak of fruits. The writer earnestly asks for special prayer for these young people, as well as for Sunday school children all over London—a great multitude. At the school connected with another congregation, the same youths addressed the young people on a recent occasion, and it is stated that not less than seventy of them have since waited on the minister in deep spiritual anxiety. Addresses have since been given to the ragged-school children at Sermon Lane, Liverpool Road, and also at the rooms of the Islington Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. The writer can say, from personal observation, that these youthful servants of Christ are doing a great work, in a fervent, yet humble spirit.

Cases frequently come to light in which conversions can be clearly traced, as direct answers to mothers' prayers. Two such cases are before my mind as I write; and also another, where in answer to a 'sister's prayers'—the answer long deferred, and the cases apparently hopeless—a brother and his wife have closed their Sunday shop, have publicly confessed the Saviour, and besides are realizing temporal prospects, in a way which that bro-