

among us in Canada, and to spread abroad over the land a deep, fervent, scriptural piety, it is not necessary to wait till the log church be replaced with a handsome brick edifice, nor to fold the hands till some revival meetings are held in one's neighbourhood. The true church is the church in the house, and the best of all revivals is that which begins in the closet, and burns every day in the week on the family altar.

MARKS OF A WORK OF GRACE.

In every department of life the true and the spurious, the reality and the counterfeit, are found side by side. It has been, is, and will be, for a while to come, pre-eminently so in matters of religion. "Beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John iv. 1.

It is, therefore, well for us at this time, when we see around us so many signs of a revived religious life, to study, with our Bibles in our hands, the marks of a true work of grace given in that Book. In this enquiry we could not follow a safer helper than one of the old New England divines, who was himself associated with Whitefield in the great American revival of the middle of last century. He gives us *five* marks by which he was anxious that the work in his day should be tested. They are all of them taken from the fourth chapter of the first epistle of John, as our readers can see by opening their Bibles and following for themselves:

That is a true work of grace which (1) EXALTS THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST. This sign or mark we find in the 2nd and 3rd verses of the chapter. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that confesseth not

that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God." The word "confess" here signifies more than mere allowing; it implies a joyful declaration of the fact with affection and esteem. If the spirit that is a work among us to-day is a spirit that leads to Christ, that settles men's hearts on Christ; if it begets in men higher and more honourable thoughts of Christ, than they used to have, it is a sure sign that it is the true and right spirit. The spirit of error is the very opposite of this.

That is a true work of grace (2) WHICH OPERATES AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF SATAN'S KINGDOM. This sign we have in the 4th and 5th verses: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. They are of the world, therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them." So that from the antithesis here stated between the spirit of the true believer and the spirit of the world, we may safely conclude that when we see people *drawn off* from the world, weaned from its follies and its vanities, and drawn to a deeper concern about a future state, this change in them is from the spirit of God, and not from the spirit of the world, who would not thus fight against the interests of his own kingdom.

That is a true work of grace (3) WHICH INCLINES MEN TO STRONGER FAITH IN THE BIBLE AND DEEPER STUDY OF ITS CONTENTS. This rule we find in the 6th verse: "We are of God; he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us; hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." "We are of God," that is the Apostles, who were inspired for their work, and who have left behind them their writings. The devil has done all in his power to extinguish the light of the Scriptures, and to draw men away from them, because he knows that it is this light