

LECTURES ON THE REVIVAL OF RELIGION.

This important course of lectures was commenced in Albion Church, on Sabbath November 3d, when the Rev. Mr. Bonar, of Laibert, delivered a most able and truly valuable introductory lecture. The subjects embraced in it were—the nature of a religious revival—the state of religion peculiarly requiring it—its effects, and a vindication from objections and prejudices. A revival he showed to consist not in mere excitement, but in the solid fruits of the Spirit, produced through the instrumentality of the sound preaching of the Gospel, waited upon with constancy and eagerness by a people, in deep earnest about the salvation of their souls. The present state of religion amongst us, he showed, eminently to require such a revival, which would quicken the graces of God's own people, awaken and give spiritual life to the mass of secure carnal professors, who occupy the large space between the true people of God, and the world lying in open wickedness, and make an in-road upon this outer domain of Satan itself, causing even it, or parts of it, to become "the garden of the Lord." A very able vindication against popular objections formed the concluding theme of the discourse. The crowd, who were anxious to obtain admittance into the large church, where the lecture was delivered was immense; nearly 3000 must have been within the walls, and almost as many were unable to gain admission.

The second lecture was delivered in the same place and to an equally numerous audience, on Sabbath, Nov. 10th, by the Rev. Mr. Anderson of Kirkfield, "on the work of Christ in connection with the revival of religion." The discourse was very full and able, showing the whole work of revival to be intimately dependant on the work of Christ, in his atonement, righteousness, and intercession. Both discourses, when published, will be read with much interest, and we trust with great practical benefit. The crowds have been so great, that it was thought proper, last Sabbath, to open St. David's Church, for the accommodation of those who could not get admittance to the lecture. Mr. Lorimer accordingly officiated there, to a large congregation—his subject being "the descent of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost." The lectures were both repeated in St. George's Church, on the Monday evenings, to full and respectable congregations, who were evidently deeply interested.

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The third of the series of lectures on the revival of religion, was delivered on Sabbath, Nov. 17th, in Albion Church, and re-delivered in St. George's on Monday night, by the Rev. Alexander Moody Stewart, of St. Luke's, Edinburgh. The subject was "the work of the Holy Spirit in the revival of religion." The church was, if possible, even more densely crowded than formerly. A large number who were unable to find admission filled St. David's, where the Rev. Mr. Paterson, of Hutchesontown, preached an appropriate and excellent sermon. Both on the Sabbath and Monday evenings, the peculiar solemnity of the subject seemed to arrest the attention of the congregation. Mr. Moody Stewart took his text from 1 Cor. ii. 14—"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." His clear and striking exposition of the special and powerful operations of the Holy Spirit, was calculated to make a deep impression on his hearers. Such is the interest felt in the subject of this important course, that at the three services on Sabbath and Monday, upwards of five thousand persons were present.

The fourth of this service was delivered in Albion Church, on Sabbath (Dec. 1,) by the Rev. Dr. Willis, of Renfield Church. The church was, as usual, crowded long before the hour of meeting, and the numbers who were unable to obtain admittance filled St. David's which was opened for that purpose. Dr. Willis's subject was, "The Sovereignty of God as connected with the Revival of Religion," which he handled in a most luminous and judicious manner—showing the sovereignty of God to be the source of the salvation of sinners, and that instead of hindering prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit, it was an encouragement in prayer to know that God had ordained men to be saved—that prayer itself, as one of the means leading to the conversion of sinners, was ordained in that connection; and when the spirit of prayer is bestowed, the answer may confidently be expected in consequence of the ordination of God. An excellent sermon was preached by Mr. Buchanan in St. David's, and on Monday Dr. Willis's lecture was re-delivered in St. George's to a large congregation.—*Scottish Guardian*.