

had many opportunities of witnessing the work then going forward. When they returned home their statements in regard to it were anxiously sought for, and their experiences rehearsed in various districts. Dr. Gibson was himself one of these deputies; and he was engaged for many months after his return from America in answering the demands of brethren to narrate to their various congregations all that he had seen and heard of the great work of God during his visit. Wherever he went, he says, his statements were received with the deepest interest. Never, indeed, had he a happier time than in declaring to friends at home the gracious doings of the Most High among their kindred on the great Western Continent, which in the wakeful attention, earnest gaze and stifled emotion of the listening thousands, he often fancied that he could trace the harbingers of a no less glorious renovation.

It would be impossible to trace at any length the history of this great work. Take this statement of it in the neighborhood of Ballymena as a specimen. I shall condense it considerably, leaving untouched those salient points, on which I should like more especially to fix your attention, respecting the manner and method pursued by those engaged in the work. There is less of the extraordinary in this statement than in many others recorded by Dr. Gibson, and thus it may serve our purpose better. It would require to be repeated many times and with endless variations, to give any adequate idea of the whole work of grace in the north of Ireland.

"The week which began with May 17th, 1859, can never be forgotten, though it cannot easily be described. When the great outpouring came, worldly men were silent with an indefinite fear, and Christians found themselves borne onward in the current with scarce time for anything, any feeling, but the overpowering conviction that a great revival had come at last. Careless men were bowed in unaffected earnestness and sobbed like children. Drunkards and boasting blasphemers were awed into solemnity and silence. Sabbath school teachers and scholars became seekers of Christ together. Languid believers were stirred up to unusual exertion. There was great earnestness with all, and enthusiasm with some, but little extravagance or ridicule was known. Ministers who had often toiled in heartfelt sorrow, suddenly found themselves beset with enquirers, and wholly unequal to the demands on them. Every day many were hopefully converted, passing through an ordeal more or less severe to realize their great deliverance, and to throw themselves with every energy into the work of warning others, or of leading them to the Lord.

"All this came suddenly, and many thought it strange. It was little marvel that the world was astonished, but the incredulities of many Christians shewed how much we needed a revival. We were astonished that God took us at our word, and sent at last the quickening grace for which we had been dreamily praying so long. The theory of asking and receiving was common, but the getting of a blessing for which there was no room was rare. The day spring broke in upon sleepers, there were few who could wait and watch with their unchanging Lord. 'Thy Kingdom come' was familiar, but the coming Kingdom was the wonder of the day.

"It was in the opening summer that the revival came, when the darkness lingers so long at nightfall, and the bright mornings break so soon. We can remember how many lighted windows there were, though the night was far gone, and how prayer meetings were prolonged till the day had returned again. Every evening the Churches were crowded, and family worship became universal. In the country large meetings were held in the