

## THE AWAKENING

it was Howell Harris and Rowlands, both of Llangetho, who were responsible for its triumph. It was the extraordinary eloquence of these men's preachings that, in the face of the most violent persecutions, roused the people from their apathy. The result we know: in 1735 there were eight Nonconformist chapels in North Wales. To-day there are 1,500,000 Nonconformists to about 200,000 of the Anglican persuasion. This immense majority makes it only fair that the Anglican Church should cease to be the established one of Wales. And on several occasions the people, as in the case of the anti-tithe war, have violently manifested their desire for Disestablishment. The religious revival produced a very wide reverberation. It sent a tremor through the whole of the Welsh nation, rousing it so completely that from that moment it regained consciousness of its own personality. From the beginning the movement had the good fortune to be led by great preachers; pulpit eloquence in Great Britain never rose to greater heights than in these little Welsh communities. The movement, purely religious at first, soon passed beyond its original limits. It was, in fact, says Professor Rhys, "the new