

THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

Scripture.

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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN NEW YORK.

From the Christian Advocate.

BY A LAY PREACHER.

FOR a long season, in common with our brethren in other parts of our country, the churches in New York have been mourning over the apathy and languor which seemed to prevail. The few who have "not defiled their garments," nor "bowed the knee to Baal," were "weeping between the porch and the altar," and devout supplication has been ascending in behalf of our Zion, from those who have not "left their first love," but are still labouring to "go on to perfection." During the present Conference year our whole church in this city has been favoured with a "wrestling spirit" for the gift and influence of the Holy Ghost; and for some months, both the Preachers and the people, have been preparing to enter into the spirit of the work.

For some weeks past the cloud of divine mercy has been overshadowing us, and already the tokens of a gracious shower are falling. In the Duane-street and Greene-street churches, on the West Circuit, and in the Second-street, Willet-street, and Forsyth-street churches, on the East Circuit, protracted meetings have been held, and some of them are still in progress, attended with signal displays of divine mercy, and the ingathering of souls into the fold of Christ. Similar meetings are now conducted in John-street, in Eighteenth-street, and in Mulberry-street churches, in all of which there are encouraging prospects of good. Indeed it is believed that all our churches in this city are now prospering in religion, and the indications of a general and extensive revival, are truly encouraging. The word is preached with plainness and power, and is accompanied by "the unction of the Holy One." Our ministers and brethren mutually help each other, and the "love of Christ" constrains all hearts to "love one another." Truly there is cause to rejoice in our behalf, and it is fit that our brethren, at home and abroad, should unite with us in glorifying God.

This brief allusion to the prosperity of our Zion is designed to cheer the hearts of our brethren in church-fellowship, and elicit their fervent and believing prayer, not only for the spread and increase of this good work, but that they also may share largely in the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The voice of lamentation over a real or apparent decrease in our societies has been so long and so often heard of late, that some have perhaps been led to waver in their faith, if unbelief has not been actually engendered in many minds. Some have even expressed fears and evil forebodings for our Zion, as though

they apprehended an extensive decline in Methodism as probable, if not certain. And many and contradictory have been the reasons assigned for these evil prophesings; while it may be feared that some have declined in their love and zeal, as a consequence of the littleness of their faith. But "the glory has not departed from us." Blessed be God, the system of means for "spreading scriptural holiness through the earth," which, under God, was devised by our own Wesley, and which Methodism perpetuates in the same spirit all over the world, is still owned by the great Head of the church in the reformation and salvation of men. And wherever and whenever our "ancient landmarks" are kept in view, our excellent discipline is maintained, and the doctrines of a "free, full, and present salvation" are proclaimed with zeal and faithfulness, through the atoning blood of Christ, applied by faith to the penitent and believing soul, the Holy Ghost attends the work, and sinners are awakened and converted to God. Thus it is with us in New-York; and thus, as we learn, it is also in the north and the south, the east and the west; and while we "thank God and take courage," we are permitted to anticipate a general and universal outpouring of the Spirit and revival of the work of God in every part of our own country. Come, Lord Jesus, and let every heart say, Amen!

The writer is one of those who verily believe that "Methodism is identical with Christianity, doctrinally, experimentally, and practically," in the language of our late lamented Bishop Emory. By the expression of this sentiment, we would not even seem to derogate from the claims of other evangelical denominations of the church of Christ, nor arrogate to ourselves exclusive pretensions to genuine Christianity. So far from this, we extend the hand, and open the heart, of fellowship to "all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity," of every name; we pray for their prosperity, and rejoice in their success in the conversion of souls. And we even take reproof to ourselves from some of them, for their zeal and liberality in the cause of Missions, of education, and other enterprises of benevolence and religion. But we regard Methodism as strictly apostolical, in the itinerant organization of her ministry, in the simplicity and purity of her doctrines, in the Gospel economy of her institutions, and in the adaptation of her means of grace to the work of evangelizing the world. We adhere to her for this reason; and continue to be Methodists, through good and evil report, because we believe that God has raised us up as a distinct denomination; and the best of all is, "God is with us!" Yes! he is with us in very deed, in the awakening and conversion of sinners, and in the sanctification of believers, as aforesaid, and he