

Meeting, for it was so called, became more and more interesting, till the knowledge of its existence spread through the neighborhood. Many came to see whether the things they had heard concerning it were true; and such was the earnestness and solemnity in that little assembly, that strangers who came once, returned again and again until they also caught the hallowed flame.

In passing, we cannot but note how simply all this occurred, how entirely within the means of any christian congregation were all the various instrumentalities, and how plainly the power of vital religion in any heart must prompt to such works of faith and labors of love for the name of Christ. The pastor's entreaty to a young man to do more for Christ began the enterprise. The christian layman, with possibly a riper experience and judgment, combined with a heart warmed by love to Christ, gives a new impulse to it, and devises means for a wider reach of influence; and the divine blessing rests on all that is done. There is an immense reserve of force for the evangelization of the world in the Christian Church, which is allowed to go to waste. Of this however we shall have something to say hereafter. Meantime, note particularly these simple beginnings of the work of grace in Ireland, and how they suggest ways to bespeak a blessing open to every Christian congregation. How many individual Christians, who aridlers in the Lord's work, might be doing something, something which with the divine blessing, might bring forth the noblest fruit, as e. g.—

"Among others" says Dr. Gibson "who were associated in the Sabbath School Prayer Meeting already mentioned were four young men whose names have been much before the public in connection with the subsequent revival. These four rejoiced together in the glorious work, and took great delight in each other's society, enjoying sweet communion with each other and with their common Lord. But as they were some miles apart in their respective homes, and could not come together so often as they desired, they resolved to meet in a central place for christian fellowship; and for this purpose they choose an old school house in the neighborhood of Kells, where, in the month of October, about two months subsequent to the commencement of the Sabbath School Prayer Meetings at Tanny-brake, those exercises were conducted which have been generally regarded as the origin of the revival. "This little gathering for christian fellowship soon increased. One after another, member was added on the recommendation of the original members; and this gathering together of kindred spirits greatly raised the hope and expectation of all. In December, the first instance of conversion in answer to their prayers occurred. A young man was awakened, and after some time of intense anxiety and distress, found peace and joy in believing. Early in January, a youth in the Sabbath School was won over to Christ. Special prayer had been offered up for two individuals and about this time both were awakened and converted to God. Faith grew. Hope brightened. The power of prayer began to be known and felt and seen. The spring communion happened about this time and by the very solemn services of that time the work of grace was wonderfully deepened and extended. Very shortly thereafter whole counties in the north of Ireland were rejoicing in a plentiful shower of blessing.

At the same time that this work was going on in the region of Connor a very great stimulus was given to the hope and expectation of God's people in all the Churches by the intelligence of the awakening in the United States. A deputation had been sent by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to visit the kindred Churches in the United States. While there, the deputies