

visited His Church. Thus, then, it is apparent that in order to a revival of religion it is not necessary to run away with strange doctrines, or strange methods of teaching, as the manner of some is. The "truth," His own revealed Word, is the Spirit's instrument in converting, reviving, building up His people; the truth—sometimes, indeed, though not a little disfigured with mixture of human error. The Spirit is sovereign, and He shows His sovereignty at times in ways that may sadly puzzle our poor blind minds.

The mighty Revival which took place in England, Wales and Scotland, in connection with the labours of Whitefield and the Wesleys, had its origin in that little prayer-meeting which the devout group of "Methodist" students kept up at Oxford in the face of ridicule and persecution. Praying and working was the rule, and in due time the result was seen in the white channels made by penitential tears in the faces of the Kingswood colliers to whom the Gospel had never before been proclaimed. Throughout this Revival it was still the preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified that was made the means of doing good. No new substitute was found in place of the old Gospel of salvation. Witness the sermons of Wesley and Whitefield, and the hymns of the period.

In Scotland we find that the great Revival of the eighteenth century followed the faithful preaching of the Scripture doctrines of regeneration, sovereign grace, consecration of the heart and reformation of the life. Human eloquence won no laurels on this field. Mr. McCulloch, whose labours were most conspicuously prosperous, is described as "not a ready speaker, not eloquent. Thoughtful and studious, he delivered the truths of God faithfully; but his manner was slow and cautious—very different from that of popular orators." "He spent much time in secret prayer." "He greatly encouraged private Christians to meet for social prayer, and particularly that God would revive His work everywhere."—We note these facts to encourage brethren whose talents may not be brilliant. God does not need

brilliant oratory to accomplish His ends. We have the treasure in earthen vessels. Let not, then, ministers or congregations expect *less* because the pulpit may not happen to be the scene of fine rhetorical displays or eloquent appeals.

What physical manifestations should be expected in connection with remarkable revivals of religion? It is not for us to prescribe to the Spirit of God. Let Him come how, and where, and when He listeth. Be it ours to be thankful. There may be prostrations, strong crying and tears; and there may be the most decorous silence. Jonathan Edwards, remarking on the complaints that are sometimes heard against the confusion caused in public meetings by persons deeply excited, says that while people should refrain, to the utmost of their power, yet if God should please to convince their consciences "so that they cannot avoid great outward manifestations, even to interrupting and breaking off those public means they were attending, I do not think this is confusion or an unhappy interruption, any more than if a company should meet in a field to pray for rain, and should be broken off from their exercise by a plentiful shower.—Would to God that all the public assemblies in the land were broken off from their public exercises with such confusion as this the next Sabbath day! He who is going to fetch a treasure need not be sorry that he is stopped by meeting the treasure in the midst of his journey."

In revivals of religion the first signs generally are greater earnestness, prayerfulness, devotion and self-denial on the part of God's people. It begins, but does not end with them: they draw others to Christ by telling the wonders of His love.

Regarding the effects of the Revivals to which we have referred, the testimony is unequivocally favourable. What were England to-day had it not been for the Revivals of the eighteenth century? Probably revolutionized, torn, bleeding, like France and other faithless lands. What were Scotland without her Revivals? Probably as dead and cold and heretical as Holland. It is impossible to overstate the re-