

## The Religious Intelligencer

hall on every Tuesday and Friday. The attendance on Tuesday last was numerous and respectable. A lay gentleman occupied the chair and the leading services were conducted in a most impressive and efficient manner by Messrs. Hazlitt, Dill, and Morrow, clergymen of the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan churches.

Minor differences among the evangelical clergy appear to have been entirely forgotten in their common desire for the conversion of souls and the extension of Christ's kingdom; and this becoming union upon their part is hailed with lively satisfaction by every denomination of the Protestant laity. The Roman Catholic converts continue in steady adherence to the reformed doctrines wherewith they have been "impressed"; and it is a significant fact that one of them very recently took a leading part in the business of a public prayer meeting near Broughshane.

Many seriously disposed members of the Roman Catholic church attend at the revival meetings in Ballymena and the neighbourhood—but they do so in defiance of certain stern injunctions to the contrary. We know of one poor boy who was inhumanely beaten by his parents for disregard to a prohibition of this nature; and when thus compelled to obedience, he, although unable to read, purchased a copy of the New Testament Scriptures, and presented it to a pious old neighbour still poorer than himself, on whom he attends to hear a portion of it read at every available opportunity. We have already remarked that a more special observance of the Sabbath is one of the prominent results of this religious revival among the people. To that revival the Roman Catholic clergy are opposed; and, by way of contrast, we state a fact which can be readily established beyond all controversy.

In the afternoon of Sunday, the 29th ult., a day marked in a peculiar manner by the manifestations of a mysterious and heart searching power in Ballymena, as well as by the lightning flashes of an elemental disruption, a certain party were seated at a game of cards, in boisterous merriment. They were not the ragged and reckless Sunday gamblers of the "sand pit." The scene was in the town of Ballymena; at the time, daylight; the performers were dressed in fine broad-cloth—and one of them was a Roman Catholic clergyman! We may presume that clubs were trump, and it is known with certainty that his reverence held the dice. Groans of agony, and prayers of penitence, were elsewhere ascending to the throne of the Eternal; heaven's lightnings were flashing about the table—but, pooh!—the card was a winning one, and down it went upon the polished mahogany with an emphatic thump!

Relying on the promises of God, and encouraged by their fulfilment to others, and the glorious results following, let us "draw near to God," confessing and forsaking our sins, absolving ourselves before him, and unite in beseeching him, for his Son's sake, to pour out his Spirit, and revive his work among us. Let believers unite in prayer-meetings as often as possible—let prayer be made at the family altar, and in the closet, for the following objects especially:—

1st. That God would endow his servants with more power—that they may be able to "preach the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven," that the word preached "may be effective in the saving of souls."

2d. That Scriptural piety may be revived in all the churches. "That holiness unto the Lord" may be the motto of all that call upon his name; and that conformity to the world may no longer be the reproach of the church, and the stumbling block of sinners.

3d. That the number of faithful Ministers be increased,—men who feel with the Apostle, "Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel!" And also that laymen, and women, may become more efficient labourers and helpers in the great work of saving souls.

4th. That the Holy Spirit may with great power "convince the world of sin," because of their unbelief; that the most unlikely cases of impenitency, as well as the more common, may be subdued to contrition and repentance, and be given over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

5th. That this work may cover the whole country; that every district and community may share largely in it, and the wave of divine glory not cease until thousands are converted to God.

Say not that this is too great. God is honored when his people believe for much, and ask for much! "Ask, and ye shall receive," is his promise, without limitation? May the great Head of the Church give to his people the spirit of strong faith, and fervent prayer.

**Call to Fervent Prayer.**

The year 1858 and 1859 will ever be memorable in the history of the Christian Church. The conversion of over half a million of souls in America—the gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit in numerous towns and places in Scotland and England; and now the cheering tidings that reaches us from Ireland, of the progress of the work there, call for devout thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God. If the origin of these extraordinary manifestations of saving power be enquired for, we answer that in the means employed to bring them about, God has especially fulfilled the language of the Psalmist, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength." True to His manner of working in all ages of the world, he has not employed such instrumentalities as the wisdom of the world would have selected. In the work of God, as in the accomplishment of magnificient worldly projects, men would associate great names and great means, and look for success only through efforts beyond the ordinary. Such are not the ways of God—he hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and weak things of the world to confound things that are mighty; and base things and things that are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; that no flesh should glory in his presence. Men would naturally look for the association of eminent names of distinguished eloquence, of enthusiastic zeal, and great fervor in the origin of these great revivals of religion. But so far as human observation is concerned, they must look in vain. Not but all of these exist in the work—but it is in its progress they are developed, while in its origin they are unknown. The work has produced these, and not these the work. This is always God's method of doing. Prayer, earnest, believing prayer, from sincere hearts, offered in the name of Jesus Christ, has brought the blessing down. As in the case of Elijah, when he prayed, and "the fire of the Lord fell," and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench;" and all the people saw it, and fell on their faces, and said, The Lord, he is the God, the Lord, he is the God;" so in a similar manner in answer to prayer has the Holy Spirit come down; hundreds of thousands have already been converted to God, and still the wave of divine power rolls on.

Some twenty months since, a few earnest-hearted Christians in New York, disgusted with the lifeless formality of much of the religion in that city, as well as with the open inquiry practiced there, resolved to go to God in prayer, and ask Him to "revive his work." At first they numbered but three or four—but what in ac-

dance with God's will, is too great to be accomplished by even this number of believing men, whose hearts are fully set on the work? Soon their numbers were increased they met "statedly with one accord, in one place," and almost before they expected, the gracious showers began to descend. A young man, a Christian, from Philadelphia, providentially fell in their company—he caught the spirit, returned home, and suggested a similar meeting there. Prayer meetings increased. God was called on, and it has been estimated that in a single year from that time, in the United States alone, more than half a million of souls have been converted, and made the heirs of glory!

Similar results are following similar efforts in the United Kingdom. A writer well informed in relation to the work now in progress in Ireland says:—"As to its origin, the only human instrumentality in connection with it seems to have been that of a few humble, pious men, who have been moved to pray very earnestly for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

Now we ask our readers—our churches—our brethren of all denominations—is there not a necessity for fervent prayer among us? Is a general revival of religion not wanted? We have had a few local refreshments it is true—"it has rained upon some cities, but not upon others;" while the power and permanency of the revivals enjoyed, have not been what should be hoped for.—The promise is unto us, as well as to others,—"Ask and ye shall receive" and again,—"If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him."

Relying on the promises of God, and encouraged by their fulfilment to others, and the glorious results following, let us "draw near to God," confessing and forsaking our sins, absolving ourselves before him, and unite in beseeching him, for his Son's sake, to pour out his Spirit, and revive his work among us. Let believers unite in prayer-meetings as often as possible—let prayer be made at the family altar, and in the closet, for the following objects especially:—

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**MR. BROWNLOW NORTH ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.**

At the Meeting of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in Edinburgh in May last, a committee having been appointed to confer with the distinguished lay evangelist, Mr. Brownlow North, with a view to giving to his services a cordial sanction, that committee reported themselves abundantly satisfied with the conference, and it was therefore moved that Mr. North should be received and recognized as a lay evangelist, capable of being received into all the pulpits of the Free Church. (Mr. N. is we believe, denominational an Episcopalian.) The Moderator of the Assembly having addressed Mr. North, he replied in an impressive and thrilling address, in the course of which he referred to some things of vital interest in the cause of religion everywhere.

The four obstacles to the progress of godliness which Mr. North has discovered in Scotland, namely, WANT OF PRAYER, DISENGAGEDNESS OF CHURCH DEACONS AND OFFICERS, AN UNGALLANT MINISTRY, and UNFAITHFULNESS "OUT OF SEASON," are unquestionably obstacles in the way of the increase of Scriptural piety in other lands; and his language is so full, clear, and to the point on these subjects, that we transfer with great pleasure the following extract from his address to our columns.

By the way, while referring to Mr. North, we wish it to be remembered that he is an unordained preacher of the Gospel. His not having received the imposition of hands does not in any wise militate against his usefulness. Neither does he ask or seek ordination, that we have ever heard. He is content to preach the Gospel, to which he seems especially called, without aspiring to clerical dignity. Is not this a good example for others to follow?

We confess we do not see why some cannot be as useful without ordination as with. Yea, we verily believe, that ordination has ruined the usefulness of many a sincere laborer. We would encourage every man to work for God somehow—as a lay evangelist, if he have gifts and qualifications for it—but let great care be exercised in the ordination of men—not every good and useful preacher should be ordained.

But to the extract. We trust it will be pondered by all who read it.

I have had an opportunity during the last three years of seeing much of the religious state of the country; and I have come to this conclusion, that although we are, by God's grace, gathering many prisoners out of the chains of sin and Satan, still it is but one of a city and two of a family, and that the whole world is no better now than in the days of the apostle, when he said it was lying in wickedness. Now, dear friends, by the help of God's Spirit, how much might not you, who are now before me, effect in leavening this putrid mass of iniquity? I believe there are four special things for which God is very angry with the land, and for which His Spirit is so little among us. First the neglect of united prayer—the appointed means for bringing down the Holy Spirit. I say it, because I believe it, that the Scotch, with all their morality, so called, and all their outward decency, respectability, and love of preaching, are not a praying people. Take the Presbyterian Churches—I am not speaking of the Free Church, the Established Church, or any other Church,—take the Church of the land, and you find congregations of from 1400 to 1600 on Sabbaths, and at the prayer-meeting on Tuesdays you find thirty, forty, fifty, and sixty people. Sirs, is not this the truth? The neglect of prayer proves, to my mind, that there is a large amount of practical infidelity. If people believed that there was a real, existing personal God, they would ask him for what they wanted, and they would get what they asked. But they do not ask, because they do not believe or expect to receive. Why do I say this? Because I want to get Christians to remember, that though preaching is one of the great means appointed by God for the conversion of sinners, yet unless God give the increase, Paul may plant and Apollos may water in vain, and God says He will be injured of. Oh, masters! excuse me—you gave me this chance of speaking—urge upon your people to come to the prayer meeting. Oh, Christians! go more to prayer meetings than you do. And when you go to the prayer meeting, try and realize more that there is use in prayer.

Secondly, I do not believe that there is a more effective system in Christendom, for the promotion of true religion than the Presbyterian system, if it was carried out. But the machinery is not worked. Look at the elders in the Presbyteries there in the Presbyterian Church. But what are these elders doing as a body? Blessed be God, there are many holy, self denying, godly men, who seek not their own things, but the things which are Jesus Christ's, and who go into the lanes and alleys of the cities, and pray and speak, and try to lead people to God. But do the elders, as a body, do that? How many elders are there in Edinburgh? Say there are a thousand. If these thousand elders would go forth and try to promote the glory of Jesus Christ, and the good of souls, what salt, light, and leaven might they be to the whole community! But I believe there are elders,—it is possible, who may be such in this very Assembly, who know that God, who searcheth their hearts, sees that from week to week, and from month to month, they never make a single attempt to do anything for the glory of Jesus Christ, and such must give an account to God at the last day.

The third point I have seldom or never heard touched upon, perhaps men hardly know how to do it; but I believe it lies at the very heart of the freethought of the land—and it is this:

In the church of England, and in all the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and, I doubt not, in all other bodies, men are brought up from childhood to say that they are going into the Church—and men in England are brought before their bishops, and in Scotland before their Presbyteries, and without any fear of being struck dead for committing the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, they swear in my Church, and state in yours, that they believe they are called by the Holy Ghost to the ministry, and that they enter it out of a desire to promote the salvation of the souls of their fellow creatures; and they know when they say it tell a lie. I

say there are multitudes of instances of this—even in this Assembly there may be those who know that they have been guilty of this fearful sin, for ever among the twelve disciples there was Judas—ever in this Assembly there may be those who have even now no reason to believe that they have been born again of the Spirit, and who are nothing but hireling shepherds.

Oh, if there be, I implore you to conceive your position! If it was a dreadful thing for the rich man to think of the entrance of his five hundred and other destructive hounds were slain by millions. Reports from all parts of the country are favorable. Hay is a light crop in the Upper Canada, and unusually heavy in the Lower Province. The wheat has appeared in some places; but the average, Potatoes look well. A few weeks

ago that Peter gave to Simon Magus—confess your sins to God, pray for pardon and the Holy Spirit, and for the baptism of that fire which can yet enable you to awake the dead around you;

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and then, instead of being lost forever, you may yet appear before God in glory with many children not be some test in the Churches—some practical proof of the new birth—something requiring an evidence of truth before men are sent into the ministry merely because they passed certain examinations, and have an outward decent, respectable, moral character? Even supposing that, numerically, ministers were to fail by so doing, and there were not sufficient ministers to supply the Churches, would not such a want be likely to make the people reflect, and send them to prayer for a godly minister? Brethren, bear with me. I do not presume upon my position; but if I lose this opportunity of speaking, no man can tell if I will ever have the like again. I asked God this morning to bless me, and give me a word that should be blessed to you.

Lastly, the very best amongst us are exceedingly guilty in neglecting the apostolic injunction to be instant "out of season." How solemn is the introduction to the command, "I charge therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing." "I charge thee," what? "Be instant in season, out of season?" Now, we can all speak when we are expected in the pulpit, in the prayer meeting, or at the family altar, but we are faithful out of season? I feel convinced that, if the godly minister would prayerfully commence a system of individual, faithful, personal dealing with his people in their own houses, speaking as one who was in earnest, and beseeching men not to rest in a mere form of godliness, but to be contented with nothing short of God's Spirit witnessing with their spirit that they were born again, that it would soon see the fruit of his labour, and have reason to bless God and take courage. We need more out of season work, more talking to people apart in private as to the state of their souls,

salvation, although the fields should yield no meat, the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there should be no herd in the stalls. Yet we hope and pray that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store; that God will rebuke the devourer that he may not destroy the fruits of our ground; and that there may be no complaining in our streets. Happy will it be for us if while the earth yields her increase, God even our own God shall bless us with the outpouring of his Spirit, and a rich harvest of precious souls.

Your readers have heard of the wonderful escape of Professor Wise and companions left St. Louis in the balloon Atlantic, and being caught in a gale off Lake Ontario, were finally wrecked near Sackett's Harbour, after being borne through the trees tops at the rate of two miles per minute! The voyage of 1,100 miles in 19 hours—about a mile a minute!—had an abrupt, though merciful termination; and it is said that Professor Wise is satisfied with the result, and intends to cross the Atlantic before long. He is satisfied that a current of air moves unceasingly from West to East above a given altitude. His balloon excursions in past years have been undertaken mainly for the purpose of testing this point, and he hopes to turn aerostatism to practical account. We may yet pass from place to place in balloons, but railways will scarcely be superseded while timid people are so numerous, and the aeronauts have so little control over their vehicles. But "we shall see what we shall see."

While a few may applaud and many justify the exposure of Professor Wise and others for the sake of science, no excuse can be offered on behalf of M. Blondin, a French rope-dancer, who recently crossed the Niagara River on a tight rope stretched from White's pleasure grounds on the American side, to a point a little North of the first toll-gate on the Canadian side, above the bridge. This wonderful feat was performed, it is said, in the presence of 10,000 persons—Blondin rested himself several times, and at one point lowered a piece of twine to the steamer below, and drawing up a bottle of liquor drank its contents, and proceeded on his way. Twenty minutes, including about ten minutes for rests, were occupied in crossing. On the fourth of July, without letting his intention be known before hand, Blondin actually crossed blindfolded! The crowd had expected a repetition of Thursday's act; but they saw more than they anticipated, and held their breath with terror. Surely there is no other man fool hardy enough to attempt imitation. Such feats are to be shunned, not copied. They do no good; they generally terminate fatally. Sam Patch took one leap too much; and Blondin may attempt to cross some yawning chasm once too often. To die thus would be to perish ingloriously.

A. B.

**Ordination of B. F. Rattray.**

NORTON, July 20, 1859.

Messrs. Editors.—I have just returned from a short tour up the St. John river. A brief notice of it may be interesting. I left home on Wednesday, the 13th, with brother Wayman, and on Thursday, met Elders Hart, Merritt and Perry at Upper Gagetown, when a consultation meeting was held with the church at that place, relative to the ordination of Brother B. F. Rattray. A meeting was appointed for the next day (Friday) for the purpose of setting that Brother apart to the work of the Ministry. The order of ordination was as follows:—First hymn, reading Scriptures, and prayer by brother Perry; second hymn by the writer; sermon by Elder Hart from 2 Tim. 3: 2, "Preach the Word." He presented the subject under three divisions—1. DOCTRINALLY, 2. EXPERIMENTALLY, 3. PRACTICALLY. The discourse was both instructive and encouraging. Questions to the candidate by the writer, which were answered with great candour. After which, reading of appropriate Scripture. Then all kneeling, with the hands of the Elders on the head of the Candidate, brethren Wayman and Hart offered prayer, after which, Elder Merritt gave the charge, and Elder Hart the right hand of fellowship. It was a season of deep interest, and we believe, of general satisfaction to those present. After the close of the service, we left for Fredericton and Douglass. In the former place, I spent the Sabbath. It was a season of peculiar comfort to me to meet old friends here for whom I had labored in years past, and also to see those brethren with whom I had formerly rejoiced. The cause of religion in the Church in Fredericton is in a healthy state, and as Brother McLeod has closed his labours there, I hope no time will be lost by the people in securing another minister among them. On Monday we visited Douglass and arranged matters satisfactorily there. The country looks well; grass on the Canning intervals abundant. It is God who crowns the year with goodness.

Yours, &c. J. NOBLE.

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