
THE
Western Missionary Magazine,

For JANUARY, 1805.



[*From the Connecticut Evangelical Magazine.*]

A REVIEW OF TIMES PAST,
AND CONTEMPLATIONS ON FUTURE PROSPECTS,
*Humbly attempted for general instruction, and to excite pious
meditations, &c. Or,*
THE EDITORS' NEW YEAR'S-GIFT,
TO THEIR GENEROUS READERS.

A NOTHER year is gone. Yes, irrecoverably gone.—
Millions are gone with it to the grave, and to judgment.
All the living, solemn thought! have been wasted on one year
nearer to eternity and their final doom. With millions this
will be the last year. Great numbers will live but a small
part of it. Every portion of time, each month, and day, and
hour, is pregnant with great events. There is not a minute
in which there are not more persons exchanging worlds, and
going to judgment, than there are seconds in it.* All begin
their new year, with an entire uncertainty what will be the
events of it with respect to themselves. No one can deter-
mine that he shall not be the first who shall be called to mourn

* According to the common estimate of mortality, about thirty-five
or thirty-six millions die annually, and about seventy or eighty every
minute.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE REVIVALS OF RELIGION

Which have taken place in the Congregation of Chartiers, in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

I TOOK the charge of this congregation in November, 1788.th They were then few in number, yet among them God and some of his chosen ones, who continued praying for the success of the gospel. For three years I continued labouring among them without much apparent success, except that they became more regular in their attendance on public ordinances, and the worship of God was set up in some families where it had heretofore been neglected.

The first remarkable season of the out-pouring of the Spirit which we enjoyed in this congregation, began about the middle of December 1781. It made its first appearance among a few who met together for social worship on the evening of a thanksgiving day, which had been appointed by Congress. This encouraged us to appoint other meetings for the same purpose on Sabbath evenings; and the appearances still increasing, Sabbath night societies were continued, with but little interruption, for nearly two years. It was then usual to spend the whole night in religious exercises, nor did the time seem tedious, for the Lord was there, and his work went pleasantly on. Many were pricked to the heart with deep convictions, and a goodly number, we hope, were brought to close the happy match with precious Christ. At the first sacramental occasion after the work began, forty-five were added to the church, many of whom continue until this day, bringing forth the fruits of righteousness, and filling important offices in the church; and many, we believe, are gone to glory.

During this season, though *crying out* was pretty common, inasmuch that the speaker's voice was sometimes almost drowned, yet *falling down* was not common. I know but of four persons who were thus exercised, three of whom are alive, and have manifested by their lives and conversations ever since, that they have experienced a real change of heart: the other lived like a christian, and died triumphantly. This time of refreshing continued, in a greater or less degree, until the year 1794. Upon every sacramental occasion during this pe-

riod, numbers were added to the church, who gave comfortable evidence of their having obtained a saving change of heart. But as I neglected to keep a register of their names, I cannot now ascertain their number.

The next remarkable season of the out-pouring of God's Spirit, was in the year 1795. This however was not very extensive, nor of long continuance. Yet during this season about fifty were added to the church, most of whom continue to manifest, by their walk and conversation, that they have experienced a genuine work of divine grace upon their souls, and some of them are now successful ministers of the gospel; though there are some lamentable instances of apostacy.

In the spring of the year 1799, the Lord again graciously revived his work in this congregation. Many were at once awakened to a serious concern about their immortal souls, and made to enquire the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, weeping as they went. Of those who were then awakened, about sixty have since joined the church, and made a public profession of religion. This revival, as well as that in 1795, was carried on without much external appearance, except a solemn attention to, and silent weeping under the preaching of the word. Yet I know of three persons who were exercised in the same manner as has been so common at the present day.

From that time until the fall of 1802, religion was evidently on the decline; for though some were every year added to the church, yet they were generally such as had been brought under serious impressions in 1799, and there were few or none newly awakened. Sinners became more bold in sin, and floods of vanity and carnality appeared likely to carry all before them. Even the pious themselves became very weak and feeble in the cause of Christ, and much buried in the world, insomuch that when God returned to build up Zion in the most remarkable manner we ever were witnesses to, it might in truth be said, "we were as men that dream." Many stood astonished, not knowing what to make of it; and but few were prepared to meet the Lord and bid him welcome.

This work differs from former revivals only in this, that the body is more generally affected. It is no unusual thing to see persons so entirely deprived of bodily strength, that they will fall from their seats, or off their feet, and be as unable to help themselves as a new born child. I have seen some

lie in this condition for hours, who yet say that they could hear every thing that was spoken, and felt their minds more composed, and more capable of attending to divine things, than when their bodies were not thus affected. As far as I have been acquainted, the bodily exercise has never preceded, but always followed upon the mind's being deeply impressed with a sense of some divine truth. Their sins of life have been set before them, and they have also had a great sense of their sins of heart; their hardness of heart, their enmity against that which is good, and proneness to all evil; and also of the worthlessness of their own religious performances, their prayers, praises, and all they did in religion. It has been a common thing for persons to have such a sense of their own sinfulness, that they have thought themselves to be the chief of sinners, that none were ever so vile as they, and that God would be just in banishing them eternally from his presence, and inflicting upon them the dreadful punishment of their aggravated iniquities. They have also been deeply affected with a sense of their ignorance and blindness, and so of their extreme need of the divine pity and help. A number have also been brought to a clear conviction of the truth and certainty of the great things of the gospel; to a firm persuasion that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and the only Saviour of lost sinners; that the great doctrines of the gospel respecting reconciliation by his blood, acceptance in his righteousness, and eternal life and salvation through him, are matters of undoubted truth; together with a most affecting sense of the excellency and sufficiency of this Saviour, the glorious wisdom and grace shining in this way of salvation, of the wonders of Christ's dying love, and the sincerity of Christ in the invitations of the gospel; producing a sweet rest of soul in Christ as a glorious Saviour, accompanied with an adoring and exalting apprehension of the glory of the divine perfections; with a sensible, strong and sweet love to God, and delight in him, far surpassing all temporal delights, or earthly pleasures; and a rest of soul in him as a satisfying portion, attended with an abhorrence of sin, and self-loathing on the account of it, and earnest longings of soul after more holiness and conformity to God, with a sense of their great need of divine assistance in order to holiness of life; together with a most dear love to all that are supposed to be the children of God, a love to mankind

in general, and a most sensible, tender compassion for the souls of sinners, and earnest desires for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in the world.

When these and such like effects are produced, we cannot doubt a moment whose work this is. We must reject the word of God, not only in some particular passages, but in the substance of it, if we reject such a work as not being the work of God. The whole tenor of the gospel proves it; all the notions of religion which the scripture gives us, confirm it.

Since this work began in this congregation, fifty-two have been admitted to the Lord's table, thirty-two of whom have been the subjects of bodily exercise. A number yet continue under solemn impressions; and some, we hope have been brought to close with Christ, who have not yet ventured to make a public profession of his religion. Among those who have been the subjects of this work, there are a few considerably advanced in years, but by far the greater part are young persons. There are also a great number who, for a time, were seriously exercised, and raised the hopes of their pious friends, who have quenched the motions of God's Spirit, and returned with the dog to his own vomit, and with the sow to her wallowing in the mire; whose case appears almost hopeless, and who, we fear, will ere long have to take up that sad lamentation, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

JOHN M'MILLAN.

CONVERSION AND DEATH OF A SOCINIAN.

To the Editor of the London Evangelical Magazine.

SIR,

THE Lord has been pleased lately to exercise me with an awful and affecting dispensation in a certain person, a hearer in my congregation, just on the point of admission into church-fellowship; who, to the great astonishment and grief of both church and congregation, renounced the Faith, and embraced Socinianism. So eagerly did he drink in the doctrine of Socinus, that he soon forsook the means of grace, and