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Welsh Revival

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The Welsh Revival.

The Rev. Thomas Phillips, B.A., of Norwich, contributes the second of two articles on the Welsh Revival to the "Baptist Times" this week. They are a record of the impressions left on his mind by a personal visit to South Wales a fortnight ago for the express purpose of seeing the movement for himself. He came away profoundly impressed with the reality and permanence of the religious awakening which is sweeping through the country. In one respect he was unfortunate. Mr. Evan Roberts was ill and unable to take any part in the meetings while Mr. Phillips was there, but, he says, that seemed to make little or no difference. If there is one characteristic of the revival more marked than another, it is that it is a spontaneous outbreak of religious feeling among the people. Ministers and other recognised leaders have no distinctive place or part in it. The people are conducting the revival themselves, under the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit.

That it will be of permanent value Mr. Phillips infers from two features. The revival springs from an intense realisation of the presence of God. Everything centres round the Person of Christ, and especially of Christ upon the Cross. Then the movement is essentially an ethical one. Drinking, gambling, swearing, and theatre-going have all but disappeared from the districts affected by the revival. For the moment the dream of the old Fifth Monarchy even is realised, and God is King in South Wales. Mr. Phillips points out that the revival is in consonance with the Celtic genius, and is therefore largely musical in its character. Much of the overwhelming effect described in the daily Press is due, he thinks, to the repetition of simple refrains which appeal to the emotional rather than the intellectual nature. He evidently believes that the movement will spread to this country, though among the more stolid English people it will assume a different, if equally characteristic, aspect.