

MAY, 1878.

## The Revival we Need.

**O**UR statistics, our reports on the state of religion and christian life and work, and the experience of every pastor from Manitoba to Newfoundland, demonstrate very plainly that the great hindrance to our prosperity and progress as a Church is lack of steadiness and unity in work. We need to have the old adage so impressed upon our minds as to be translated into action: "At it, all at it, always at it!" Our Church is sadly weakened by a large number of nominal members and adherents who in reality are "dead-heads," and take no living, active, steady interest in any of the Church's enterprises. Happy the congregation that is not dragged down by a heavy percentage of persons who seldom take a deeper interest in Church matters than to growl, or criticise, or sneer. All our congregations need a revival which will extend to these moral icebergs that do so much to reduce the spiritual temperature of the Church, and to clog the wheels of progress. There should not be one non-productive family in our borders. Each person may not be able or willing to contribute towards all the enterprises of the Church; but there is ample scope for choice. First of all, the ordinances of the Gospel must be sustained in the congregation. None should be so dead to duty and to brotherly love as to forego a share in this.

Then, there are the Home Mission enterprises of our Church throughout our vast Dominion. Who would not wish to aid in scattering the seeds of the Word by the sounding seas of the east, and the mighty lakes and rivers of the west? "This Dominion for Christ!" be our watchword. Remember that there are five colleges inviting aid and support; let no member

or adherent regard himself as having done his duty until he has contributed according to his ability to one or other of the funds for the support of the colleges. The evangelization of a million French Roman Catholics is a work to which God has evidently called us as a Church. It is onerous and ever enlarging. Who can withhold a helping hand in this grand work?

The Foreign Missions of the Church are multiplying and extending. Men and women are to-day risking their lives in heathen lands, in order, as our Agents, to make known the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. Yet there are whole congregations, and some members and adherents in most of our congregations, who never make a contribution to our Foreign Mission Funds! Other schemes of the Church might be mentioned, but it is needless to do so. What we earnestly urge is that a conscientious sense of duty be cultivated among the people with regard to helping all the enterprises in which the Church is engaged. Give some help, in one form or other, and you will do good, even though it be apparently ever so little. But contributing to all the funds of the Church is only a portion of the duty of members and adherents: our Church needs a far spreading revival of Sabbath School Work—of the humble study of God's Word—of attendance on prayer-meetings—of family piety and family training—of brotherly love and mutual helpfulness—of zeal for God's glory and the salvation of sinners. Outward organization, the machinery of our Churches, is essential; but it is only means to an end; and if there should be no spiritual life about it, it is but a dead and useless body that might as well be buried out of sight. How mightily would our Church be strengthened by such a revival as would transform the weak, the selfish, the wavering into good soldiers of Christ, and zealous witnesses for Him! Let us ask God for such a revival this very season.