

act to the department of Indian affairs as Egerton Ryerson to educational administration in Ontario ; to give him control in choosing his subordinates and to hold him responsible for their doings. It is more likely that honorable men fitted for the work would be chosen than is now the case.

Revivals.

SPECIAL services with a view to a revival are held in many churches. This has always been characteristic of the Methodist body and they are followed in a greater or less degree by the Baptists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. The Roman Catholics send their special missionaries to arouse their own people and to gather converts from Protestantism. By a revival some mean, "The people of God are awakened, humbled, unusually impressed with the great realities of religion and specially engaged in the performance of its duties ; and when sinners in considerable numbers are converted." To gain this end resort is had to various means. A pastor, feeling that religion is at a low ebb in his congregation, lamenting that so few come forward to join the membership of the church, may secure the services of a preacher noted for his power or success in arousing people. The preacher comes and by stirring addresses is instrumental in awakening the professed Christians to a deeper interest in religion, and also in bringing many to seek safety from the dangers to which they feel exposed. The revival preacher then leaves for another field of labor and the congregation gradually returns to its former dull and lifeless state. There is no doubt great danger in connection with such a plan. Reliance is put upon these special efforts and special men. These special men are apt to limit their teaching and preaching to one or two phases of Scripture truth, on which they lay stress wherever they go. The imagination alone is excited, while the intellect and heart remain unenlightened and dead.

Others understand by a revival—"The increase of religious affection, love, faith, repentance, hope, joy, peace—in believers and the commencement of these in unbelievers." Here there can be no excess or extravagance because these affections are based on Scripture knowledge. He who desires this kind of a revival will necessarily depend on the regularly appointed means of promoting religion. He will shun anything like sensation and avoid the ebbs and flows of artificial excitement.