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REVIVAL OF RELIGION.

This has been the great topic, and we trust, in some quarters, the great event of the year. It may, with special emphasis, be termed a "year of grace;" a year in which Christ has increased, and angels have rejoiced, and saints multiplied, and sinners passed from death to life.

We need not argue in favor of a Revival. All Christians, having life, long to have it more abundantly. The Church prays continually—"Wilt thou not revive us again"? And ever since the Church was founded, it has had its epochs of quickened inward force and augmented demonstrative activity. These epochs have come not by human might or power, but of the Spirit of the Lord. All history, civil and sacred, is marked by æras; and it is a laudable desire and warrantable prayer, that the present time may prove a good æra in the history of the Church—a year of the right hand of the Most High. This desire need not be greatly discouraged by a fear of the follies and abuses which have damaged former revival movements in Britain and in America; for the experience of the past has not been lost, its warnings have not been forgotten—the Church has grown into more intelligent and reverential views of the operation of the Holy Spirit, and maintains a wholesome fear of mere ephemeral excitements, or of those feverish pulses of emotion that are so likely to be succeeded by languor and exhaustion.

Of the reality and importance of the present American Revival we entertain no doubt. Though we may see it to lack the depth and the thoroughness we could wish, we yet heartily and joyfully recognize the abundant evidences of quickened devoutness and activity, and pray God to strengthen that which He hath wrought. We are assured by eye witnesses as well as by the public press, that the prayer-meetings in some of the chief cities of the Union, especially in New York and Philadelphia, far from dwindling away, increase in godly interest; and that out of them seem to flow rivers of living water. It is certain too,