

REVIVALS.

Encouraging reports reach us of revival work among the churches and of large ingatherings to the household of faith. This is as it should be. Without such growth in numbers the waste through death, removals from the country and other causes, would soon deplete our churches. The philosophy of revivals is becoming more and more widely recognized. They were at one time regarded as specially characteristic of Methodism; but now the other denominations are vying with each other in this blessed work, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Congregationalists often unite with our own Church, or act independently, in the promotion of such work. The Church of England has its special lenten services and missions with notable success. At the busiest hour of the day in the busiest part of New York, the head of Wall Street, Phillips Brooks from day to day held crowded services in old Trinity Church. Even the Roman Catholic Church has its missions, at which workingmen assemble by the thousand at six o'clock in the morning for the promotion of spiritual work.

The series of revival meetings and seances held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, have been attended with marked success. It is a very significant fact, as well as an encouraging one, that night after night that large church has been crowded to the doors with men and women eager to listen to the simple preaching of the Gospel. Very many have been led to give their hearts to God. We need more and more to utter the prayer of the Psalmist, "Wilt Thou not revive us again that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?"

ARMED EUROPE.

That was an instructive picture which appeared in one of the journals the other day representing the relative size of the armies of Europe, by overgrown military giants. The Russian army represented 5,000,000 men; the French, 3,409,000; the German, 2,710,000; the Italian, 2,550,000; Austria, 1,912,000, and England's

army was a tiny figure representing 614,000 men. On the same scale the army of the United States, of only 25,000, would be an almost invisible dot. At a time when famine and its inseparable companion, fever, are stalking gaunt-eyed through some of the fairest portions of the world; when, in the richest city of the world, men and women are dying of starvation, it is treason against humanity to wring from the long-suffering taxpayer the treasure of money and the toll of flesh and blood required to maintain these enormous armies.

During Christmas week the churches of Great Britain were urged by the "Peace Society" to preach sermons on the evils of war; and in numberless cases this was done. But the Christian Church has heretofore been largely to blame for the glamour and glory thrown over the profession of arms. The new Democracy of Great Britain and the continent, we believe, will strongly resist and resent this oppressive war burden; and the widespread doctrines of the Prince of Peace will bring in, let us hope, in the twentieth century, if not before, a general disarmament of Europe. Towards this the young socialist Emperor of Germany is directing his thought. If he can succeed, he will be the greatest benefactor the house of Hohenzollern has ever given to mankind, and, compared to his, the glory of "Fighting Fritz" shall wane and disappear.

SCOTTISH STRIKES.

This is a strange picture presented on the Scottish border at the Christmas-tide which would speak to all peace and good will—an exceedingly painful one. Eight thousand hard-working railway men complain that they cannot obtain their rights as human beings except by striking, which, in its way, is a sort of civil war. They assert that in many cases they have to work for seventeen hours a day at the most wearing employment in which a man can engage. The wealthy railway organizations may perhaps "freeze out" in a very