

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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REVIVAL.

Our church stands greatly in need of a revival of true religion. By a revival we do not mean a mere spasm of fright about the condition of the soul, or an eagerness to hear eloquent or startling preachers, or even a loud profession of religion. Profession may exist without much reality at the root of it. Serious impressions may vanish like the morning dew. There are thousands who listen with "holy rapture" to eloquent preaching, but who leave the house of God more hardened than when they entered it. A true revival is known by its fruits—by a consistent life, by liberality towards the cause of Christ, by self-denial and eagerness to do everything possible for extending the Redeemer's kingdom. This is the kind of revival we, as a church, must pray for, with redoubled earnestness.

Evidences of our "leanness" are too many to be recounted, but we may specify a few:—

1. We have only eight theological students in our Divinity Hall? Only eight students, while the foreign field is white for the harvest—while the cry for help comes from every continent and island. Eight students, while our home mission field extends from Labrador to Bermuda—from Newfoundland to Madawaska. Three times eight students would not be too many, and yet we have but eight! Young men, consider this fact; parents, think of it; let the whole church think of it, and mourn and pray over it.

2. Many of our ministers are but ill paid—so ill paid that they stand as beacon-lights

to warn young men from a calling where such poverty has to be encountered. Christian congregations promise fairly; but by and by the devil tempts them; they break their promises; they neglect or refuse to pay their minister, dishonouring their own pledged faith, sinning against God, breaking their minister's heart, unnerving his hands, disqualifying him for his work, and writing on his very face the deep, sad lines, of anxious fretfulness. We have seen it often and often; men promising, subscribing liberally, and then shamefully disgracing themselves by breaking their promises.—Nothing, we are persuaded, can afford more satisfaction to Satan than this conduct on the part of christian congregations. Let us, as a church, go before God in sackcloth and ashes, to bemoan our sin in this respect, and to plead that he would purge this sin from among us.

Is it any wonder that God should send leanness to our souls—that we should be DEAD when some of our congregations thus tamper with the plainest principles of common morality? Is it any wonder that our theological students should become fewer and fewer?

3. Our old and well-organized congregations are too selfish. The grand characteristic of christianity is its usefulness. All selfishness is sin. Let us remember this, and let the strong help the weak, and the weak those that are weaker still. A revival of true religion in our hearts, would set us to seek out ways of doing good; and assuredly we shall not have far to seek.

4. Do we, as churches, pay enough at-