

Certain religious journals just now are prophesying a great revival in the churches, as a sort of appendix to the Century Fund. If they only knew it, the revival has come already to the churches, not from within but from without. It has come in a great spiritual wave, so silent that no man knoweth whence it cometh nor whither it goeth ; a wave that bears literature, science and philosophy on its crest, that swamps materialism and cries out for God ; that floated Victor Hugo into moral heights, and lifted Ritschl out of rationalistic abysses ; that late in life led Romanes to see God, and impelled Richard Le Gallienne to write his *Religio Scriptoris* ; that placed the Great Unknown behind Herbert Spencer's empiricism, and inspired Kipling's *Recessional*. The wave has a voice, the music of many waters, bearing a message to the churches ; it speaks in Channing and Emerson, in Longfellow and Whittier, in Carlyle and Maurice, in Kingsley and Farrar, in Tennyson and Browning, and in a thousand more, saying, "God is here—then live like men in God's holy sight." And what do the churches do ? God forbid that the Talker should judge them all, and thus condemn himself. But, from what he sees round about him, he finds not a few of the churches outside the wave, stranded on the barren sands of dead orthodoxy, knowing nothing of, and caring less for, the great external movement that is none of their making : save when they lift angry and discordant voices in the vain attempt to drown a music that is not their own. Revival ! What does revival mean ? Not tickling half diseased nerves with the passing hysteria of so-called religious excitement ; nor squirming and wriggling the self-righteous spirit into set forms of selfish deeper spiritual life, as they call it. Revival means, "Be a man, a free man, in God's sight." Put off your cloak of insincerity, your conventional forms, and cant, and shibboleths, your struggle for dead uniformity, your censoriousness, your mental indolence, your half unconscious selfishness, your efforts to impress the world with the belief that you at any rate are good men ; repent your utter lack of transparent honesty, brotherly kindness, and charity. A city set on a hill is the church ? Would that it were. In true manhood the