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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—THE MINISTRY'S DUTY TO THE CHURCH AT THE PRESENT DAY.

BY PROFESSOR FREDERIC GODET, D.D., NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND.

FIFTY years ago, when I entered the ministry, a revival of religion was bringing life to Christendom in Western Europe; its powerful breath touched all the churches in succession; everywhere souls became convicted and came to the knowledge of grace, the enjoyment of peace, and the possession of spiritual life. According to the fine expression of the psalmist, "From the womb of the morning thou hast the dew of thy youth." Like yonder fruit-laden trees which the prophet beholds, rising from the banks of the wonderful river, a number of Christian institutions sprang up from the fertile soil of this new life; evangelical societies, foreign missions, Bible and religious tract societies, Sunday-schools, and many other kindred departures made their appearance and developed; philanthropic agencies of different kinds were added to the recent religious creations. Then, on a new Palm Sunday as it were, the disciples testified by word and deed to the Saviour who manifested His presence in the midst of them; and Jesus Himself could have said, "If in such days of grace these should hold their peace, the stones would cry out."

We are still in many respects under the salutary influence of that revival. Religious and philanthropic work, by which the Church of the present day is distinguished, is partly the offspring of yonder movement. For that reason the prosperity itself of the Church must not deceive us, lest we should bear a judgment on her present state which would be too favorable. The engine may roll for some time on the rails, and the train with it, even after its fire has begun to go out. The all-important point is whether the motive power is properly kept up inside of the motor.

Serious doubts as to its soundness may be held with regard to the present state of the Church. What power was it which gave, at the time of the revival, the memory of which I just now recalled, such a wonderful impulse to the Christian society? It was a living faith in the Divine facts