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## RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.

[The subject indicated by these words is one of surpassing importance, both to individual Christians, and to the churches of which they are members. But the terms have been used with such a latitude of meaning, and often in so vague a sense, that it is extremely desirable to fix and limit their signification. The following remarks, originating in the United States, the special theatre of revivals, first appeared in the American CHRISTIAN REVIEW, a periodical of great merit published in Boston; were reprinted in the London BAPTIST MAGAZINE; and are now transferred to ours, with the hope and prayer that a serious perusal of them may be eminently beneficial to all our readers, and contribute to the advancement of pure religion in this land.]

It is our design, in the following paper, to discuss the nature, the conditions, and the means of religious revival,—a subject of deep interest and vast importance.

The expression, *revival of religion*, has been in common use in this country for a number of years, as designating a season of special interest

and prosperity in the church, or in particular churches. When a religious body is not enjoying any special and unusual prosperity, and receiving accessions of converted persons from the world, it is said to be *not a time of revival*. Occasionally, you will hear such bodies describing their condition, as one in which, though no revival is enjoyed, the institutions and ordinances of God are attended to, and peace and harmony exist among the members. It consequently happens, that revivals are regarded only as occasional events, which happen at irregular and distant intervals, and which, in their very nature, are intended to be transitory. They are considered as exceedingly desirable, are anticipated with intense interest by the churches, and when they come, are hailed with demonstrations of peculiar joy. But, somehow, they do not last long, and, after visiting the churches for a few weeks or months, take their departure, to the deep and unfeigned regret of all interested. Hence, also, the intermediate seasons,—the seasons, we mean, which intervene between revivals,—have come to be regarded as necessarily seasons of depression and declension, with which no one ought