

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Salvation Army.

MANY will regret the serious break that has just occurred in the ranks of the Salvation Army. Perhaps, however, it was inevitable. Christianity is opposed to autocracy, recognizes no universal and absolute captain but Christ. The absolute despotism of the Army, while it has been a source of strength, has also been a source of weakness. It is especially contrary to the genius and spirit of the American people and of American institutions.

Doubtless there is abundant room for the new organization along with the old, in these times of great spiritual need. Possibly methods a little more spiritual, as well as a little more American, with less that is offensive to people who have something of good taste, may open the way for the new organization to a class of people that has only been partially reached by the old.

There is another defect in the Salvation Army that needs to be remedied. It is not a church, and is without the distinctively Christian ordinances. We have long felt that this would ultimately prove a fatal weakness, or lead to the formation of another great church organization, just as did the Wesleyan movement of a century and more ago.

Is it not possible for the new organization to come in some way into closer sympathy and cooperation with the churches of the various Christian denominations, and so to prove a new source of inspiration and strength to the whole Church of Christ, while finding in the churches the remedy for its own defects? We have too many organizations already, but if something like this can be done it will furnish a valid reason for adding one more. Can it be done?

The Coming Revival.

WE have repeatedly taken occasion to emphasize the necessity at the present time, or in the immediate future, for a great spiritual awakening and quickening that shall not only revolutionize the church but the whole world as well. Religion itself needs it, the individual, business, society, the state, all need it. We are glad to note, from time to time, pronounced expressions of the sense of need of such a divine quickening.

One of the latest of such expressions is that of Secretary C. H. Payne, D.D., LL.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wide acquaintance with our country makes his forecast of special value. He says:

"If I rightly read the signs of the times, the American Church to-day is on the eve of another great religious movement; she is entering upon a revival epoch unprecedented in her history. I shall attempt briefly to indicate some of the characteristics of the coming revival—the revival needed; the revival which the church must exert her best energies to secure; the revival which must surely and soon come."

The following are some of the points he makes in his strong presentation:

"First, it will be a revival of original Christianity.

"It will be a revival of individual righteousness.

"It will be a revival of corporate righteousness.

"It will be a revival of social righteousness.

"It will be a revival of civic righteousness.

"In the coming revival, more than ever before in the history of the church, the subjects and the agents will be young people."

The Age of Mechanism.

THE present seems to be fast becoming the age of mechanism in religion as in everything else. There is danger that the vast and complicated machinery will clog the work of the church. A distinguished preacher and pastor recently asked us: "Are we not being carried back again to the Middle Ages with their overmastering show of outward works, and their consequently merely formal religion?" The question set us thinking. Less machinery and bustle of activity, and more truth and life—are not these the present requirements, brethren?