

in the Church ; and the knowledge of the Church's history is essential if this spiritual power thus gained is to be used most effectively for the furtherance of the kingdom. Many earnest Christian people in every age, whose spirituality could not be questioned, have learned, all too late, lessons from their own mistakes, which they should have learned from those of their fathers, and have failed to grasp the meaning of their times or to use them to advantage, because they knew not the history of the Church and how its present had come from its past.

But first must come revival of spiritual life, and the basis of this is not hard to find. Whence have come the greatest revivals of history ? Whence came the revival of the last fifty years of the first century ? The publishing of the good tidings of Jesus and His teachings, the "examining of the Scriptures whether these things were so," the teaching, the "discussing daily," the faithful and painful searching for the truth with mind and heart ; these led the true leaders of that great age to the intelligent conviction in spite of prejudice, formalism and immorality that here was the Truth, and this vital, rational, enthusiastic faith of the people, based on knowledge and experience, expressed in humble but mighty service, was the great revival. Whence came the Protestant Reformation ? At the basis of that great outbreak there lies the Renaissance. The New Learning, as it came up through Italy and Europe ; the study of the Greek, especially by students anxious to know ; the study of the Greek Scriptures ; the thoughtful comparison of the things that exist with the things they found, according to the Scriptures, ought to be ; all these led directly to the Reformation.

Earnest literary study, by men who in ignorance thirsted for knowledge, when directed to the best literature, resulted in ideals which burst the bonds of tradition and custom and smug contentment and churchly pretension and moral death.

And that which has been shall be again. Surely there cannot be the shadow of a doubt that this marvellous popular thirsting after knowledge that we see to-day, this desire of the people to investigate Bible and Church, if it be but directed in the right way, will result, and at no great distance of time, in the most glorious and substantial revival of spiritual life and high ethical and godly principles of conduct that the Church has yet seen.

But is Not This a Dangerous Step ?

Of course, there will always be those who, with a touch of cynicism and pessimism, pronounce the popularization of know-