

of a religious kind ever being dispensed with, I think they will be more wanted than ever. We must never think God will send us one or twenty men to stir the masses; the masses are not stirred that way, except for a short time. There must be work day and day, night and night, hour and hour, by earnest men in one place, and earnest men in another, and earnest bodies of men and women keeping close to them, and backing them up in all that they do." On the following evening, at a meeting of the London Baptist Association, Mr. Spurgeon spoke still more strongly on the same subject. He said "there had been a good deal of aiming at conversion lately, but he wished he could find the converts made during the last revival. There might have been converts, but they had certainly not come to their chapels to be made disciples of, and that was a pity. He denied that the best men were those who would not go in for denomination-ism. They must spread their churches all over the metropolis, not by stealing other people's members, like those who wheedle the best and most spiritual members away from churches, and "dear brother" and "dear sister" them with as much unholy honey as they can, and when they have got them sufficiently far out, indoctrinate them with a spirit as far remote from Jesus Christ as possible. He advised his hearers to stand to their guns, and to go on plodding at their old work. Revivalism might come occasionally; but it would be a bad thing if their churches wanted to be fed upon that. Much harm was done by the idea which had come into vogue in certain quarters that revivalism should be the normal condition of the churches. They might be thankful for what they had received in the shape of a revival; but they were not to think they had got anything very great, for it would take

something a hundred times greater to move London."

The pungent words of this outspoken and honest Baptist should send every man and woman that reads them with renewed energy to do revival work by ploughing across the field God has laid at his door, and across it, and again across it.

There are slothful people in this country who go about idling, and when work is to be done they send word to their neighbours to come and do their work for them—and they call this a "bee." How much better it would be for them to be up early themselves, and do their own work like men, than to be looking to others and waiting for other people's energy to supply their lack of it. Instead of waiting for a revival in the shape of great gatherings and moving speakers, let each father do the work of revival in his own family by working that great field God has given to him at his own fireside, "for" as Thomas Manton says, "a family is the Seminary of the Church and State; and if children be not well principled there, all miscarrieth; if youth be bred ill in the family, they prove ill in the church and commonwealth." Let our motto as ministers, Sabbath School teachers, parents, Christian workers be "Across, and across it," which is in homily phrase the advice of Paul.—"*Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not.*"

THE CLOSING YEAR.

There has been a keen discussion among learned men as to whether we should say that 1875 belongs to the third quarter of this century, or assign it to the fourth quarter as its first year. A good deal can be said on both sides of the question. It is however generally agreed that as the seventy-fifth cent belongs to the third