

necessary to salvation which is not either expressly taught in the inspired volume or may be concluded from it. But none of the Reformed Churches, so far as we know, has dared to put the Bible without note or comment into the hand of each of her ministers, and to invest him with authority to expound it to the people according to his own conscientious conviction, leaving him absolutely free to form his own opinions and to propagate them. The result has been that when a religious teacher found himself hampered by the creed of his Church, he has been compelled either to find a home in some other communion or to form a new sect for himself. In this respect, those smaller bodies who have professed to know no creed but the Bible have not been found to differ from the more completely organised churches in the day of their trial. The unwritten creeds of these sects have been generally found to be more rigid and more narrow than the most carefully prepared confessions of faith which have been placed on record. But that this question will be so forced upon the attention of Christendom by the sharp and terrible conflict with atheism and infidelity upon which the Church is just entering, as to lead to its careful examination, there can be no reasonable doubt; and if the case under consideration should have the effect of throwing light upon it, that "were a consummation devoutly to be wished."

REVIVAL OF RELIGION.

In ancient times the warlike tribes and nations had what in modern parlance would be called their campaigning seasons—particular times when they were wont to engage in warlike expeditions. This is the season of the year at which the tribes of our Israel are wont to go out to war. For many months the sound of preparation for the battle has been heard all over our land. In the time of comparative peace there have been thousands of loyal and heroic spirits preparing for war. They have been patiently waiting and ardently longing for the approach of the time when the decisive blow is to be struck, when the prey is to be delivered from the hand of the mighty, and such a triumph of the cause of truth and righteousness shall be achieved as shall cause Zion to rejoice and her King to be glorified. The prayer has been everywhere going up from consecrated hearts, "O Lord, revive Thy work;" and not a few of the most earnest of God's people have not only been waiting but working also for a revival. At length the critical moment has arrived, and at many points along the line the battle has already been set in array. We hear of special services in many places, which have already been crowned with various degrees of success, but no grand decisive victory has, so far as we have been able to learn, been gained. It is naturally a time of anxiety upon