

## SPECIAL AND ORDINARY RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The attention of the Christian public has for the last eighteen months been much occupied with unusual manifestations of religious awakening and spiritual life, both in Great Britain and America. We have from time to time given such accounts of the movement as our space admitted, and have expressed our deep interest in the work, and gratitude to the Head of the church for what we see and hear of the coming of His kingdom.

Speaking more specially of the work in Scotland, and particularly in connection with the labours of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, we may say, in the language of Dr. Blaikie: "there has been Revival without Revivalism." A great awakening has taken place, and thousands have professed their faith in Christ, while those unpleasant concomitants which have so often marred the beauty of a season of refreshing, and have brought revivals into disrepute with some of calmer judgment, have been wanting. "There has been ordinary work, with extraordinary power." There has been no sensationalism, no hysterical manifestations, or late hours; no anti-church separatist tendencies; no doctrinal controversies, or unwholesome crotchets; no mere excitement of feeling apart from the reception of gospel truth. At the same time, the ordinary means of grace have been attended with extraordinary power, and plain, pointed, earnest expositions of truth, with careful study of the word of God; and individual dealings with the awakened, have resulted in a marvellous accession to the church, of apparently earnest, devoted Christians.

In all the movement, the connection with the ordinary means has been most conspicuous. Dr. Blaikie tells us: "Everywhere the revival movement has been most profound and extensive: the masses of our town population have not been pervaded. The class among whom the work has chiefly gone on, are those who have been well brought up, the children of Christian parents, mainly in the middle walks of life." This is most significant. Such a glorious light—to use Dr. B.'s metaphor—could not have been so suddenly produced, had not the arduous labours of ordinary pastors, of parents, and Sabbath schools, gone before. They, under God, had prepared the lamps, and nothing remained but that a spark from the Lord should fall upon them, and when it fell, great has been the outshining splendour, to the glory of His name. Far, then, from disparaging the more ordinary and unnoticed Christian labours of the church, the late wonderful outburst of Christian life shows that these fair fruits are connected with the hidden roots of earnest Christianity; that without these, no such glorious results would have gladdened our hearts. The revival is an answer to the labours and prayers of the church during many past years.

Our experience at home confirms this view. We have had some ingatherings in Canada; and here, also, the chief and most satisfactory results have been among men and women connected with the churches.

When Evangelists have come among us, it is almost exclusively our trained Christian community, both professing and non-professing, that crowd the churches; and we have yet to hear of the first instance in which an evangelist has been the means of producing an awakening in a district, (of which there are many in Canada,) where church life is at a low ebb, and church work has been neglected. The promising fields