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Editorial.

"LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY."

The religious awakening in Britain is calling men's thoughts in all directions to the subject of revivals. It is a large subject, but we can only glance rapidly at a few topics.

THE NATURE OF A TRUE REVIVAL.

It should never be forgotten by Christians that not only are they in Christ, but that Christ is also in them. God not only revealed Christ to Paul, but Christ in Paul. "Christ in you the hope of glory," he writes to the Colossians. We in Christ, which is justification, admits of no degrees: but Christ in us, which is sanctification, admits of various degrees, from the first feeble movements of life to full stature of the new man. A revival of religion, is therefore, in its strict meaning, a quickening of life already existing and its rapid advancement towards greater abundance. The best description of a revival of religion to be found anywhere, is in these words of Zechariah: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem: and I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness as one that is in bitterness for his first-born, . . . and

the land shall mourn, . . . every family apart, and their wives apart."—Zech. xii. 9, 10, 14. The whole subject in all its aspects is described in that passage, and exhausted, as it is given by the prophet: (1.) The Source of every gospel revelation. It comes down as rain on the earth. "I will pour." Jonathan Edwards, the best writer on revivals in the English tongue, observes, that this effusion, in the case of natural rain, is liable to fluctuations. "Though there be," these are his words, "a more constant influence of God's Spirit always in some degree attending His ordinances: yet the way in which the greatest things have been done towards carrying on this work, always has been by remarkable pourings out of the Spirit at special seasons of mercy." Works, vol. I. 314. There is given in the words of the prophet (2) The subjects of the reviving work,—the church of God, the vineyard that had been tilled and out of which the stones had been gathered, the field, fenced in, tilled and weeded. "Upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem." The promise of a revival is therefore a great encouragement to work in the way of diligently preparing the soil, for it is such a soil that responds most richly to the showers of heaven. There is given (3) The time of the revival. "In that day," which is our day, the gospel times, a fact that should teach us to attempt great things,