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THE NEED OF A REVIVAL IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

[FOR THE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.]

If it were the natural and proper state of a church to make a barren profession of orthodoxy, and to slumber in the embrace of the world, then, the term REVIVAL, as now used, might be held to be significant of wild religious excitement. But, if a living faith in the Redeemer and an energetic benevolence, that seeks the present and eternal welfare of men, be amongst the characteristics of a church, in a sound and healthy state, then, must it be admitted, that the recovery of a church to this state, from one of declension, is infinitely desirable, and that such recovery may properly and scripturally be called a religious revival.— We know that some dislike the term *Revival*, but it is probable that it is the thing signified by it, which they do not favor, and any other name would not render it more palatable to them. The term is substantially a scriptural one. The quickening or reviving of individuals, and of the church collectively, is often spoken of by the sacred writers.

In a former paper, we offered some considerations, founded on the state of the church amongst us, to shew the necessity of a revival of true religion in her. We would now, with this same view, state some considerations of a circumstantial or occasional nature. And we conceive that the immature and weak state of the Canadian branch of the Presbyterian Church,

the awakening which pervades other Protestant Churches, the ignorance and irreligion of the population around us, as well as the intimations of the prophetic record, concerning this latter age, do all require that our church should arouse herself to seek a copious effusion of the quickening spirit of God.

I. *The immature and weak state of the Presbyterian Church*, renders it the duty of all her ministers and members to labor and pray for a religious revival. Most of our congregations are in their infancy, and have not been long under spiritual culture, while the number of church members is comparatively small, and these, in many cases, widely scattered over the country.

The love which is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit, is the true cement of christian society; it is "the bond of perfectness;" and they cannot be said to be very vigorous in our congregations. The want of it in a church could no more be compensated for by the attachments which grow out of patriotic considerations and a common external profession of religion, than the want of cement between the stones of a building could be supplemented by sand. Then, there are amongst us several peculiar occasions of disunion: such as the diversity of national origin, and of political sentiments. Thus circumstanced, our congregations