

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'S CALL."**The Church's Desire: A Suggestion of Present Duty.**

IN the March number of *THE REVIEW* were enumerated some of the "Present Obstacles in the Way of Progress." There is no doubt an earnest and widespread desire for a great forward movement with the opening of the Twentieth Century. We give below some expressions of this desire coming from various quarters.

The first is from a well-known Doctor of Divinity in Ohio:

"I have been intensely interested in the effort you are making, through *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW*, to promote the revival of religion. 'Intensely interested,' because I have been longing and praying, for many years, for just such a blessing for a slumbering church and a dying world. 'The Twentieth Century's Call to Christendom' was a happy and a timely thought—no doubt a thought suggested by the providence, the Word, and the Spirit of God. I was glad to read, in the February *HOMILETIC*: 'What we are seeking is not an ephemeral influence or movement, but to lay solid foundation for a permanent change in church life and work.' For I have never liked the expression, 'revivals of religion'—I mean the use of the plural. We should always say, it appears to me, 'the revival of religion.' The plural, 'revivals,' indicates that those who use it do not expect a revival to last long. Now I do not believe that brief spurts of piety are either pleasing to God or creditable to the friends of Christ. What is needed to-day, more than anything else that God could give, is a revival of religion, deep, spiritual, widely extended as the church, and permanent. The only kind of piety worthy of true Christians is that which has often been exhibited in times of deep and powerful revival. Revived religion is what the church needs for its sublime work. It is the only thing which will enable the church to evangelize and save a perishing world.

"A deep, powerful, general, and enduring revival and reformation, I look for and expect: 1. Because it is needed—Instantly and urgently needed. 2. Because of the promises of God, our Savior. 3. Because of the prophecies of Holy Scripture. 4. Because of the prayers of the saints. 5. Because without it the church will be swamped by the

tide of worldliness which is sweeping over it. But as this can not be, under the reign of Christ, the revival will come. 6. Because it will be for the glory of God, and help to bring in the kingdom of His Son.

"God bless you and *THE HOMILETIC*. God bless His own work in the hearts and hands of all who love His Son. May God answer the prayer of Phillips Brooks, this year,—'It may be, oh, that it might be! that He will break up this awful sluggishness of Christendom, this terrible torpidity of the Christian Church, and give us a great true revival of religion.'"

The second expression is from that greatest and most thorough student of the text of the New-Testament Scriptures, Dr. Bernhard Weiss, of Berlin, with whose "Introduction to the New Testament," in its English dress, many of our readers are familiar. Dr. Weiss, in addition to his extraordinary labors as a scholar, has long been one of the principal workers in the German "Inner Mission." He writes:

"You have my earnest thanks for your friendly message. I wish you God's richest blessing for the success of your beautiful and worthy endeavors. With the transition of the century, in Germany, the church and its Inner Mission will no doubt also work with renewed effort for the kingdom of the Lord."

Still another expression is from Dr. A. Bernstein, of Berlin, a leader in Christian work in Germany. He is ready to hail every effort to rouse the Church to a sense of her duty. He writes:

"I have received with great interest your kind letter of December 30th, and the contents on 'The Twentieth Century's Call.' I am about to mention the matter in one of our religious papers. Great stress of business prevented me doing so earlier. I am very happy to hear of the movement. The Church ought never to have forgotten the Great Commission of her risen Lord. How different would things be now if the Church had done her duty. The earlier Christians are made aware of their duty, the better. Modern civilization has opened many doors which were hitherto closed. These ought to be used.

"In this respect the 'Call' is addressed to Christians—in fact, it can only be addressed to such. Christians will have to be reminded that their great object in life is to serve