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American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1865.

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PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1865.

REVIVALS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH.

Good men sometimes look with disfavor upon what they call the habit of the church, to rely upon special seasons of revival for its enlargement and perpetuity. They regard it as assuming the necessity for intervals of spiritual coldness and drought; as fostering the notion that these intervals of barrenness are to be the general state of the Church, while those times of refreshing to which we have given the name of revivals, are the exceptional events-not so exceptional but every church may occasionally expect their occurrence, but still only occa-

The theory of those who fear an overestimate of revivals as the reliance of the Church, is that the promise of the Holy Spirit, with its full influences-influences for conversion as well as comfort—is an ever present promise; that the faithfulness and the faith of the friends of Christ, is a condition which might, at all times, insure its presence: and hence there is no reason why the spiritual life of the Church should entific men of our city, among which are such not run along an even grade, and so its names as M. Wa Baldwin, M. Baird, the fruits from the world be gathered in month by month. The gentle showers, the daily droppings of saving mercy, and the morning dews of Heaven-these are their ideal of spiritual prosperity, and their hope for the future of the Church. While freely admitting the real blessing of any specific revival, on the principle that any spiritual stir K. Price, Richard Vaux, A. S. Allibone, is better than utter stagnation, still revivals Abram R. Perkins, Thomas H. Wood, O. in general are characterized as spasmodic efforts, and the leaning upon revivals as being, under the existing state of things, the chief dependence for enlargement, is deprecated as an evil.

These views, as a theory, are full of excellencies. They contain enough of truth to speak deserved reproach to the Church for its want of faith in the daily gifts of the Spirit, its want of faithfulness in daily living and walking in the Spirit, and the very bad notion which sometimes practically prevails, that the work for Christ may-to borrow a plain figure from an industrial term be done up by the job. revival state, is in truth the normal state of religious feeling, and one which should be the general, instead of the exceptional one, and that the reversing of this order is one rates in advance, we will give two copies of the most fruitful causes of disaster to the of the Hymn and Tune Book, bound in power and reputation of religion in the th, postage ten cents each. For world. Health is the natural, and sickness the unatural state of the human body. It would be a sad, and, since avoidable, a very sinful system to lay out for the general course of human life, that the disease shall | vincible of breach, and the spiritual hisbe the usual condition of our race, and tory of the Church has only been too true health the exceptional event. In like manner. we have neither excuse nor palliation to offer for that state of things in the Church, which creates the need of special revivals and special effort to tone the Church up to the revival spirit.

But the most beautiful and consistent the following valuable miscellaneous works of the Committee:—THE NEW DIGEST, GIL- to the experimental stage. The subject of revivals one which we must meet in the concrete, and in the presence of facts and history, and especially in the light of God's own method pursued through the ages, for refreshing and enlarging his church. Through all its dispensations, from the morning of time, it has contained some whose religion was of the highest type whose devotion underwent little change and who, in good measure, were ever faith ful. And yet, so far as history reveals any in the way of good. If it is used simply erally, perty itself limits the power of the facts pertinent to the case, through all the in rebuke of those religious declensions ages and dispensations of the past, God has which call for special revivals, it is doing a neglected rich, man or woman, do such a used special revivals as the chief means of right work. But if, under the actual state flagrant eed of wickedness, as their wealth the enlargement and perpetuity of his of things, it is meant to stamp the revival Church. His dispensations of grace toward system as wrong, it is most disastrously it, have been of such form and manner that, speaking after the manner of men, we may If it is so held up as to discourage churches say that, through these special seasons of from longing for special revivals, and look- example immorality far more signal and spiritual effusion, he has saved the Church ing for them, and from using special means mischieus than it is possible for the poor from extinction. Before the flood there for promoting them, it will become a mere to give The minor offences of the poor was a time when "men began to call upon | pillow for spiritual slumber, and on that the name of the Lord." Granting that pillow people, not a few, will "sleep the but the bublic conscience is liable to be this statement is very vague, and without | sleep which knows no waking." any contextual clue to its meaning, still it is fair to assume for it what would be its natural import in the later sacred histories.

where it would plainly speak a revival. The history of the Jewish church is that of a succession of revivals, occurring for the salvation of the church in its moments of extremity. One thing, however, should be said of these revivals, the contrast to which throws those of our day into reproachable light: they generally lasted through the lifetime of the generation in which they occurred. This, however, does not affect the main fact that, so far as God's dealings in the past shed light, revivals are the hope just as when it claims, as a logical concluof the Church. While he thus kept alive sion, the inference that the revival system the Church of the old covenant, he bade presupposes the necessity for the unnatural his prophets predict the same economy of state of life which we call declension, and or the with the help of newspaper reportgrace for the new.

by a revival—that under John in the wil- of its own scheme—a Divinely-ordained be brought to their doors and pressed upon derness-and then, fully inaugurated by the pentecostal revival. And the like mode of Divine working for the future, is distinctly predicted in the first Apostolic revival sermon, preached on that occasion. It speaks of the coming days of the Church, not as a continuous shower of salvation, not as one unbroken time of refreshing, but, using the plural, as "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." If any reader regards this as a strained interpretation, and insists that the word times may fairly apply to the whole duration of a dispensation, let him, if learned therein, read the word in the original, and he will find that distinct occasions are unquestionably

All the remaining New Testament history is a revival record, with a deeply interesting, and for us, instructive account of the means employed in their beginning and going forward, and of the incidents which illustrate their power. There is as yet an unwritten book-who will write it ?--the Bible History of Revivals. This, if well made out, and left unencumbered by much commentary, would form the most interesting revival record of the world, and would, beyond any other performance of which we can think, be serviceable for suggestions to faith, and hints concerning measures, in the hands of pastors, evangelists, and all who, in any sphere, would labor to save

We need not refer to the general history of the Church since, especially its current history. The testimony of this history respecting the matter in question, continues to proclaim that, under God, revivals are to a large extent, the hope of the Church. Here and there a church lives, holds its own, possibly has fair growth, without any very obviously marked times of unusual religious interest. But almost always, without something which properly comes under the name of revival, there is decline, and eventually a rapid descent toward extinc-

It is also worthy of thought in this co nection, that the realization of the theory of a horizontal spiritual lite for the Church. would be an anomaly among things under for his soil. He not infrequently launches heaven. This is alike true of affairs spiritual or secular. The even-spun thread, of which we sometimes hear, has not yet been spinned. No age, no institution, no enterprise, and no individual life, has yet carried out that figure. Oscillation, as a law of human movement, has thus far proved inan illustration of its power. People may speculate upon the reason of the Divine wisdom which has made this law so sure of effect, but their way to the bottom will be a long one. They may talk of the needlessness and the sin of obeying it, in cerstill. And thus again, in whatever is done for the salvation of men, and the general interests of religion, the church will be compelled to adjust itself, not to theories of what things ought to be, but to the true facts in their condition.

Theories must bow to facts. That ideal of Church enlargement, mentioned at the commencement of this article, must shape itself to historical truths, and the known laws of human movement, or it will stand | ces, as a example, are but trifling. Genperverted, and can effect only mischief.

Still repeating that the theory, as a theory, is good, we also reiterate that it must shape itself to the condition of things, and to the whole history of our Lord's wonder-working grace in the world, or, with words of literal truth, it will bring of the ample is multiplied a hundred fold out sentiments of falseness and practices of by the sition of the parties. The shamefalsehood. In no particular is it more true, ful dets are greedily sought, and the or more beautitul in its truthfulness, than where it assumes that the so-called revival spirit is the normal spiritual condition of the Church, which should be the constant, instead of the exceptional one. In its bearing toward revivals, it is never so un-

ever working to elevate the Church to the natural level of the spiritual life.

THE NEGLECTED RICH. poor, that we naturally come to believe that slanderous to the godless poor in the urthey are the only class in need of special gency and exclusiveness with which we evangelizing efforts in the community. It press our missionary enterprises among is for them almost exclusively, that the them. A great want of the age is a mis-Church puts forth her aggressive efforts. sionary enterprise adapted to the neglectors It was to meet their case that the gigantic of religion in the Fifth Avenue and the intellect of Chalmers labored. It is among West End. We need some Chalmers to his will. them that Rough Houses, Inner Missions, stir us up and to devise a teasible scheme Ragged Schools, Deaconness Institutions, for reaching the unevangelized rich. No Orphan Asylums, Open-air Services, Tract class goes more surely to destruction, Visitations, and Evangelizing Movements No class enjoys such immunity from the generally are undertaken. From these present consequences of sin. No class so classes, if left in ignorance, vice and irre- widely influences the unthinking portion of ligion, we expect the greatest danger to the the community by its example. No class community. The unevangelized masses of is so utterly overlooked by reformers in the poor are indeed greatly to be pitied and and out of the Church. feared, but they are pitied and feared. The Church has begun to act with great energy ard encouraging success to meet their necessities.

But the godless rich, who are neither pitied nor feared, is not their case even more deplotable than that of the poor in a Christian community? What systematic efforts are made for the salvation of the neglectors of the Gospel who live behind the soul-enfeebling influences of unconsecrated wealth, who are clothed in purple and fine linen, and fare sumptuously every Their state, their pride, keeps the day? humble worker for Christ at a distance. The eavy-paneled doors opening into marble halls do not yield to the tract visitor like the frail and shackling entrances to the hones of the poor. Notemporal necessities prepare the way for the almoner of temporal and spiritual supplies alike. The rich neglector of religion proudly retires within he ample protection of his abode, and resints all inquiry into his conduct as an instit. He pursues his irreligious worldliness, becomes more hardened in opposition to the Gospel, and no man cares on a care of gross, sinful indulgence; his home, with all its outward adornments, becomes theabode of drunkenness, the gilded

We drad the blind passions of the ignorant, degided mob; we hasten on the work of evangezing the poor in our great cities, from pruential, as well as from disinterested reason But when the rich fall into vice and rime, the mischief they do is just as great hay, far greater, though not in the same phere with the godless poor. If the poor pmetimes combine and threaten the social order to attain greater license, the impelectly evangelized and republicantain cases, but they have to deal with a | ized richin our country have inaugurated world that always obeyed it, and obeys it as blood and destructive a rebellion as is known in history, for the purpose of perpetuating heir power to oppress the poor. Certainly he political reasons for the religious elvation of the rich, would seem as pertinent and significant, in our experience. as those ir evangelizing the poor.

And ten, if a poor man, by the commission of she crime, comes under the process of law, te matter is little, if at all, notorious; thinischief once done, its consequenpoor to lo evil. But let one of these or posi n puts into their power. Let some gabling speculation explode, and reveal the complicated and long practised guilt of he chief actor; and you have an are also lerably certain to be punished; pervert, weakened, wounded by the lenient trement rich offenders are too likely to recee. And when some gross and scandals offence in the more sacred relations the family occurs in what is termedhigh life," the harmful influence press, en that portion of it claiming respectality, hastens to give the most extensive ublicity to the whole nauseous story. hus more harm is done by a single scandaly one example among the rich, to the put, and to the poor themselves, than by the ces of a whole community of godless pofor six months together.

Theeglected rich need looking after,

And, as if more emphatically to mark the | sion. It can do revivals no higher justice | whole community by their crimes. The new dispensation, it was first prepared for than to accept them as a most important part Gospel in its pureness and entireness must instrumentality, rebuking declension, and their attention. Their manners and morals need to be reformed, and their drinking usages need to be abolished, just as much as those of Bedford Street, or the Five we affirm here, that we are in favor of negro Points. Society needs protection against suffrage, and of every other right, civil, politi-We have heard so much of the neglected | their vices. There is something almost | cal and religious, which the black man claims.

> . The concluding part of an article by our "Vice in High Life," is sensible and appropriate to our purpose:

"A reformatory movement among the rich and more fashionable people of our country is very much needed. We are sending missionaries among the heathen, the negroes, the poor, the illiterate, and vicious of the worst parts of our cities. But vice in high life is much more dangerbrown-stone fronts, who luxuriate amid all ous, and there should be equally zealous efforts to arrest it. There are many influential men and women, in the gay circles of every city, who are, in spite of their surroundings, virtuous and good. They may, if they choose, correct the tone of society. If the vulgar jest and the indecent dress were forbidden by them; if the indiscriminate companionship of all who frequent the ball-room were stopped; if the prevailing extravagance were discountenanced by such men and women, a beginning of the reform would be made. Who will have the courage to be the pioneers in the movement?"

[For the American Presbyterian.] THE TWO TABLES OF THE LAW. Two events of public notoriety have re-

constitute a striking illustration of the readiness with which men separate the two tables of the Moral Law, when it suits their selfish interests, or their equally selfish, and unsanccries out with becoming earnestness: Thou alone is in the fullest sense thy neighbor, and him only shalt thou love as thyself; to him others do unto thyself. To be sure the black man has fought our battles, and perhaps by giving to our armies the preponderance of numbers, has been the chosen instrument of Providence in deciding the contest that involved the very life of the nation; but, nevertheless, "we are a nation of white men. Our nationality is the part of the man;" that is to say, if we interpret it rightly, our nationlity would be degraded, would be obliterated, if the negro were admitted to equal political privileges with ourselves-if his citizenship and his manhood were acknowledged; let us reep the nationality as it is, thus exclusive, thus perpetuating distinctions which God has never made; let us so keep it, defiant of all the lessons which God has lately taught us: let us so keep it, defiant of the prevailing heard such preaching, but the Press of Friday and Saturday gives an account of something like it, which is startling indeed, if true. For it is a virtual severance of the ness to light, it certainly cannot deceive those second table of the law from the first. And who desire to walk in the light. we can readily suppose the individual who would utter such sentiments, to be capable of preaching as loudly and earnestly as any one, on the text, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image;" or, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;" or "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." We do not find fault here with the zeal that pleads most earnestly for the observance of the first table of the law: we only lament the illogical inconsistency that at the same time tears out the very marrow and kernel of the second table—thus separating what God has joined

But there is another class of individuals who are equally zealous for the second table of the law, while they ignore or repudiate the first. The representative of this class dares to trample in the dust," not only the divine. but also the civil law, regulating the observance of the Sabbath; by a bold and defiant traffic on the Sabbath, putting his foot on traffic on the Sabbath, putting his foot on the divine command, and then endeavoring ance of the day in its sanctity the interests of all classes depend. Let it be seen, as every to divert public sentiment from the enormity of his own act, by calling the clerical delinquent to account. Again we say, as in the former case, we do not complain of the earnequality of rights among men; or of the a traitor also to society, and if he occupies severity with which it censures the individual, who as a professed representative of Christ, ventures to draw lines of caste, and quality, thus encourages those intervals of declen- ers and omplaisant editors, will ruin the and privilege, which it has ever been the aim | humanity.

of Christianity to eradicate. The language cannot be too strong that lays bare the inconsistency of that religion which professes a zeal for God, while it looks with cruel indifference, or with positive approbation upon the wrongs of any portion of the race. And that our position may not be misunderstood, Nor have our convictions been created by the war. They existed long before, and led us more than once, in public and in private, to

utter the warning, that if the nation were not just from a sense of accountability to a higher than human law, God would insist upon and secure-justice by some fearful indication of But we do object to the repudiation of the

first table of the law, or any part of it. Whether it be a trafficker in the temple of Jerusalem, or a trafficker in the streets of Philadelphia, to each the Divine intimation is equally plain: Thou shalt reverence my sanctuary-Thou shalt reverence my Sabbaths. We are not willing that the practical repudiator of the first table of the law should divert public sentiment from a proper estimate of the enormity of his crime, by his contemporary of the Evening Bulletin, on zeal for the requirements of the second table of the law. We are aware of the sophistical reasoning, by which this attempt to turn the Sabbath into a day of merchandize is supported. The Christian men of the city are coolly informed that the Press, which they read so approvingly every Monday morning is the outgrowth of Sunday labor, and that the Press which is hawked about the city on Sunday is really printed on Saturday. We are glad that the men who love goodness, and have an intelligent regard for the public virtue and for the sanctity of the Sabbath, as promotive of this virtue, have been furnished with the information which the editor of the Press has volunteered to give. And we think it is high time to ask the question, whether a daily paper, pledged alike to the observance of God's will and the promotion of human interests, and regarding the two as identical, and therefore inseparable, cannot be published in this city. It is high time to ask, whether a paper, marked by enterprise equal to that which distinguishes any "daily" now issued in Philadelphia, and containing on Monday all the recent news, cannot be conducted without trampling on the sanctity of the Sabbath. Is it impossible to let the workmen stop at eleven o'clock cently occurred in our city, which together on Saturday night, and renew their labor at one o'clock on Monday morning? and thus accomplish all that need be done. And are there not Christian men of wealth in the city, who would back such an undertaking by the tified prejudices and erroneous habits of investment of the funds necessary to its bethought. In the examples to which we ginning? And is there not a Christian senllude, the representative of the one class timent, sufficiently powerful, and intelligent and conscientious, to give liberal encourageshalt love the Lord thy God with all thy ment from the very start? It is a sad necesheart; but remember that the white man sity which compels Christian families, either to go without the current news of the day, or to patronize papers with whose course and only shalt thou do as thou wouldst have principles their deepest feelings and convictions are in perpetual conflict.

One word as to the fallacy of the argument: "The paper you read on Monday is set up and printed on Sunday, while the one circulated on Sunday is prepared on Saturday-so you who are the reader of the Monday paper are the most guilty." This argument amounts to the proverb: "As well be killed for a sheep as for a lamb." Or, in other words, as we are the violators of the Sabbath in doing the work of the Monday paper on that day, we may as well make a clean sweep of it, and while violating the one portion of the day by labor in the office, we may as well violate the other portion by traffic in the streets and in the market places. The law of God says, Six days shalt thou labor, and one day shalt thou rest. But where is Mr. Forney's seventh day of rest? What becomes of even the show of any reverence for the Divine law, when he voluntarily and boldly, with a daring front and a defiant soul, says to God, voice of humanity, "or die." We have not | Thou shalt have none of it; there is not even a portion of the day that shall not minister to my inordinate love of gain. Away with such miserable sophistry! If it can pacify the conscience of the man who prefers dark-

There is a set of philanthropists in our day who ignore religion—that which is truly Godfearing-and who are glad to find any of the professed advocates of evangelical Christianity whose inconsistencies expose them to merited condemnation. On these they pour their wrath, and gloat over their errors of doctrine and practice as a palliation of their own want of regard for the highest forms of truth. Let both classes of these pretenders be unmasked. And while it is admitted that without philanthropy there can be no godliness, and that the love of Christ must be, in the most expansive sense, the love of our entire humanity; let it be also felt, that there can be no true philanthropy without godliness—that the boastful patriotism which goes along with the violation of the divine laws, is not worth a rush; that with all its loud professions it must, in the very nature of things, be what the Germans would call Brodvaterlandshebe, a self-seeking, a bread and butter patriotism. True patriotism believes that the national prosperity and life can be maintained only by the observance of all the divine laws—that the Sabbath, as a day of rest and worship, is of as much value to the poor man as to the rich man; and that on the universal observlogical mind that is free from prejudice, and admits the equal authority of both tables of the law must see it-that the man who is a traitor to his God, is, in spite of his professions, and it may be in spite of his own blindestness with which the Press contends for folded convictions, by an inherent necessity, high place of influence and trust, is, so far as herepudiates any divine law, and thus circumscribes its power over the race, a betrayer of every true principle of patriotism