

**THE PERENNIAL REVIVAL. A Plea for Evangelism.** By Wm. B. Riley, Pastor of the First Baptist church, of Minneappolis, and Author of "The Seven Churches of Asia, etc. Crown 12 mo. pp. 323. Chicago: The Winona Publishing Company. \$1.25.

Just now when there is a general cry for a revival of true religion in all the churches throughout the land and in all branches of Christian work, this book is especially timely. Pastors, laymen, business men are awake to the great need, and it is a good sign that from all over the country we hear of plans and prayers looking towards some effort for a great awakening. All of this is good and is encouraging, but what we need is what this author pleads for—a Perennial Revival—the kind that Paul enjoined upon Timothy: "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season . . . do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry." It is right to work for a revival, but let it not be through some great excitement, or depending on some particular man and his singers. They are instruments in God's hands, but the power that is to move men's hearts is the Holy Spirit alone, and through that source only can any revival be looked for. This writer speaks of the danger of having a "certain season" each year when a special ingathering is expected; some are led to think that then and at no other time in the year can they "be saved." He says he knew of such a case, and that the very bitterness of that experience gave origin to the idea of this book, and has led him, for twenty years, to seek as assiduously to reach men's souls in the dog-days of August as in the appointed season of January.

The fifteen chapters in which this writer treats of the vital things in the Church and in the ministry on which depends the life of perennial revivals, are exceedingly helpful, and ministers and laymen will find inspiration and strength in the great work of winning souls that they are engaged in. Prayer in faith, is the first essential of a revival, and as has often been noted, the earnest and importunate prayer of some humble saint has often led to the greatest revival.