

of the age require that those who preside over the seats of theological learning, be not only men of earnest piety, but of distinguished talent. There is no other place, perhaps, where mediocrity is capable of doing so little good. It is not to be expected that the young men who are continually brought into contact with the loose opinions that are now being diffused by so many channels through society, and made familiar with the great contests that are going on,—that they can derive much benefit from those who ignore the present, and content themselves with going through the evolutions of former centuries, answering objections that have long since been refuted, and have now no defenders,—firing at silenced batteries, while they leave unnoticed attacks upon Christianity, such as those which are imported from the continent, and advocated in the *Westminster Review*. The only compensation for great intellectual eminence in a theological teacher, is that earnest, devoted piety, which furnishes a life evidence of the truth of Christianity, and which commends itself by contact—but if possible they should be conjoined.

### Wallace and Pugwash.

Our readers will learn with much satisfaction that the Rev. George Harper, M. A. Missionary, who lately spent a few weeks in Halifax, during which he had various opportunities of preaching (we have every reason to believe, with acceptance,) to the congregations of St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's, is now engaged in supervising the vacancies in these really destitute localities. For the last fourteen or fifteen years, they have been altogether without a minister of their own, receiving only occasional services from our Missionaries. Two years ago, much to their credit, considering the circumstances in which they were placed, the people of Wallace erected a handsome Church in the Village, capable of holding between four and five hundred. They have also, we believe, funds in hand nearly sufficient to build a Manse. On the first Sabbath Mr. Harper preached, the Church was nearly full; and more would willingly have attended had the news of his arrival been more widely spread. Though several of the older people belonging to these districts are, naturally enough, desirous of having a Gaelic Minister settled among them, yet the great majority, considering the difficulty, in the present state of the Church, of obtaining the services of such a person, would, we believe, be willing to receive one who had only English. Ten miles to the west of Wallace, we have, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, another fine new building in Pugwash, somewhat smaller than the former, and which was built only last Autumn. These two localities, together with several small preaching stations which might be established for the benefit of those residing in the more remote parts of the district, would afford a most interesting field for the energies of an active Missionary, and present a sphere of usefulness second to none in the Colony.

Mr. Harper being prevented by the closing of the navigation from proceeding directly to P. E. Island, in the meantime remains at Wallace, preaching alternately there and at Pugwash, and is at present busily engaged visiting the families at their houses. Considering the circumstances of our adherents in this quarter, we do not think Mr. Harper's time at present could possibly be better employed

than in ministering to their spiritual wants, and in supplying them with those ordinances of which they have so long been deprived. We heartily wish him every success in his ministrations in so important a field of labour; and we have no doubt that the experience which he is now acquiring of colonial life will prove a suitable preparation for his entering upon his duties in Prince Edward Island or any other situation which he may be called to occupy.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HALIFAX.—A collection was made in this church on Sabbath the 25th ult. on behalf of the District Visiting Society, which amounted to £13 2s. 6d.

### News of the Month.

The political news of the last month is more than usually interesting. A remarkable crisis has taken place in Britain. In consequence of an adverse vote in the House of Commons, the Aberdeen Ministry tendered their resignations, and after several unsuccessful negotiations, Lord Palmerston has become premier, and Lord Panmure, Secretary at War, in the room of the Duke of Newcastle. Only one or two other changes have taken place in the ministry, which like the last, may be considered as a coalition government. Lord John Russell proceeds to Vienna as plenipotentiary to the Congress about to be held in that city for the settlement of the affairs of Europe. Much is expected from the new ministry. The country seems to be relieved from great suspense and anxiety and more resolute and unanimous, in carrying on the war with vigour, than ever. So universally has this rule of national conduct been accepted, that the phrase appears in all the speeches of Ministers and Politicians, without discrimination of party. For this, and for no other purpose did the House of Commons record its convictions by a large majority, for this was the composition of the Government modified, the War Department newly constituted, and promises of support freely offered to any administration which would carry out this course of policy. The French are not less earnest and determined in their views and measures. Troops are leaving France every week for the East, and it is reported, although not generally believed, that the Emperor himself intends to proceed in person to the Crimea, to hasten forward the siege of Sebastopol. Other continental powers begin to view this contest in a proper light. Austria is bestirring herself. Sardinia has formed a friendly alliance with the Western powers. Naples and other Italian States, it is reported, are about to follow the same course, and Sweden and Denmark are believed to be on the same side. Prussia alone remains wavering and undecided, but steps are to be taken to induce her to declare either openly for or against the Allies. It is very evident that such diplomatic arrangements and formidable preparations are not at all unnecessary. The Allies have to contend with a formidable

able foe. War preparations are taking place on a vast scale throughout Russia; the Emperor dreading the worst has just published a Ukase calling the entire population to arms, and accounts from all quarters clearly indicate his intention to resist to the last. To all appearance we are on the eve of a General European War, the most extensive and calamitous that has ever happened, unless the leading parties in the struggle are so crippled as to be inclined to listen to moderate and pacific counsels. In connection with the movements of the Allied armies, the British fleet for the Baltic is to rendezvous in the Downs under Rear Admiral Dundas the second Lord of the Admiralty, in the beginning of this month and blockade the Russian ports in that sea, as soon as the Navigation is opened. The latest accounts from the Crimea represent the weather as becoming more and more pleasant and the condition of the troops, from more efficient arrangements, more favourable, although much sickness still prevails, and the casualties from disease and the sorties of the enemy are numerous. We have gleaned almost no other news except what relates to the all absorbing event of the War. Great Britain is still united and prosperous, able and willing to bear the heavy war taxes imposed upon her people, and all ranks appear to be animated with a spirit of great energy, and a desire for improvement.

There is nothing very exciting to report at present in these Provinces. Several of the Legislatures, including our own are now in Session. A number of bills have been introduced and advanced different stages in their progress, but very few acts have as yet been passed. Several important measures will no doubt become laws, in this the last session of the Legislature. It is very evident that there is a desire to make as liberal appropriations as the Revenue will admit of, and we should think that there are pleasing indications of increasing prosperity, in the ensuing season. With persevering industry, frugality, and economy, the inhabitants of these Provinces owning their own farms, unfettered by injurious tariffs, and blessed with fruitful seasons, a healthy climate and domestic tranquillity, have nothing to fear for their temporal support, and they cannot fail to become truly happy if they attend to the one thing needful.

### To Correspondents.

We have to thank our friends in the country for the exertions they are making to further the circulation of this Journal. We continue to receive very gratifying lists of subscribers from different localities. In last number we mentioned New Glasgow as having quite equalled, if not surpassed our expectations, and in this category we have now to place Fredericton and St. James, Charlottetown—to the ministers of which congregations we are greatly indebted. There are still, however, extensive districts containing many members of our church from