

whose intellectual faculties, after their conversion, gradually developed, and the change has been visible to all.

Some degree of gifts is needful to sustain certain offices in the church of Christ, but those gifts ought not to be over-valued by those who possess them; nor should professing christians feel themselves elevated in the scale of excellence, or entitled to superior consideration *from the mere fact* that they have some measure of gifts. A real christian, living near to God, will bear his faculties so meekly, that there will be no assumption nor display: gifts and graces will harmonize in the perfecting of his character, and in his efforts for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom. "In simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, he will have his conversation in the world;" and in the church he will be no Diotrophes. Let not the humble christian, who has not, to any considerable extent, the gifts which some possess, be discouraged, or suppose that he is less acceptable to the Lord; we had almost said let him rather rejoice, that talents sometimes used to foster the vanity of the human heart, are not placed to his use *and account*: let him seek yet more of christian graces, that in these he may glorify the Redeemer; and that in all things he may adorn the doctrines of the gospel.

W. B.

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## Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

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**THE WAR.**—While we write these lines, the news is that Austria and Sardinia are expected every hour to be in open conflict; and before they are in the hands of our readers, the shock of battle will doubtless have made the fair plains of Italy to tremble. It has long been the sad destiny of that unhappy land, with its "fatal gift of beauty," to be the prize for which contending despots have striven, under pretence of emancipating her, and it is hard to say which has spoiled her worst, Pope, German or Gaul. Neither of the Monarchs now engaged can have any other than a selfish end in view. But the People may seize and keep their own in the *melee*. Are they ripe for it? The fervid temperament that belongs to a Southern clime, long fretting under a foreign yoke, and the superstition or infidelity engendered by Popery, are but poor preparatives for the rational exercise of free-men's rights, especially where they are surrounded on every hand by vigilant, subtle and powerful enemies. But the Roman Republic of 1848, during its brief existence, was a most hopeful example of what Italians can become. Who does not wish that they had their liberty, and proved themselves worthy of it? If the war continues long, it is hardly possible that England will be able to maintain entire neutrality. From the midst of the wild confusion and uproar of these human passions, spreading and destroying like fire, we look up to Him who "stills the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people." "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, and He turneth it as the rivers of water, whithersoever He will." More will be done to preserve or restore peace in the closet, than on the battle-field. And we, though so remote from the scene of conflict, are as near as Italy to the Throne of Grace. We shall not be without sin, if we "restrain prayer before God" at such a time as this.

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**THANKSGIVINGS FOR PEACE IN INDIA.**—On Sabbath the 1st inst., by Royal Command, special thanksgivings were offered up throughout the established Churches of England and Scotland for the success of the British arms, against the rebels in India. Dissenters doubtless joined in the thanksgiving, while protesting against the command. The rebellion is now considered to be at end, though local disorders still remain. The glory of the victory most rightfully belongs to the Lord. The