

both sides thirty years after this in the American war of the revolution, were begotten and fostered in these days. In his second year in college, John Wiswall read of the winter march of the French from Chignecto to Gaspereaux, and the midnight massacre of the English troops at Minas. This and other stirring events, such as the capture of a French fleet and a number of rich merchantment on the coast of France in the following spring, kept student life at Harvard from monotony.

Mr. Wiswall graduated from Harvard in 1749, the year in which Halifax was founded. The treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, released sailors and soldiers to swell the population of the new city; but it destroyed the chances of young Wiswall for carrying out his cherished ambition of entering the navy. The call to men of his class for this service ceased with that treaty of peace. After giving a summer to the further study of the higher mathematics in the city of Boston, he devoted himself for five years to teaching school in towns in the neighbourhood of that city. According to a custom then prevailing, to further qualify himself for the duties of life, he was inoculated with the smallpox, but escaped with his life. In the spring of 1754, in accordance with his father's advice, sustained by a strong personal desire, he began to preach the gospel.

His ministry at Falmouth, now Portland, Maine, began on the 3rd of November, 1755. The border Indian war, encouraged by the French, did not cease with the treaty of 1748. In the spring of 1756, Falmouth was attacked by the red men, and some of Mr. Wiswall's parishioners were massacred. The people were obliged to spend their nights in picketed houses for protection. Mr. Wiswall passed the first year in his pastorate in dread of the tomahawk and the scalping knife. His own experience qualified him to refer with sympathy, as he does, to the murder of some of the citizens of Dartmouth, which took place two years before the red men surprised in their sleep the inhabitants of Falmouth.