

be sound in argument—strictly correct in facts and statistics—powerful in its appeals, and, of course, free from sectarian and political bias; and must not exceed a moderate-sized octavo volume. We may further mention that competitors are to send in their MSS for adjudication, not later than 1st October, 1855, addressed to the Secretaries of the Evangelical Alliance, 7 Adam Street, Adelphi, London, to whom all communications on the subject of the Essay are likewise to be addressed. Each MS to have a motto inscribed on it, and to be accompanied with a sealed letter having the same motto, and enclosing the name and address of the writer. The first edition of the successful Essay, to the extent of not more than 2,000 copies to be the property of the Council. The Rev. Dr. Harper, Professor of Divinity in the United Presbyterian Church, of Edinburgh, the Rev. John Jordan, Vicar of Enstone, and the Rev. Dr. Stowell, President of Cheshunt College, have consented to act as adjudicators, by whose award the Council will be bound, on the distinct understanding that the Essay selected as the best shall also be deemed by them to be worthy of the subject, and of the cause designed to be promoted.

ARRIVAL OF REV. G. HARPER.—We had the pleasure, last Lord's Day, of hearing two able, faithful and practical discourses delivered in St. Mathew's and St. Andrew's Churches in this City, by the Rev. George Harper, of Aberdeen, who has been lately sent out by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland as a Missionary to Prince Edward Island. Mr. Harper seems to be well qualified for the situation to which he has been appointed, being possessed of a healthy and robust constitution, winning manners, and a large share of common sense, in addition to his excellent theological attainments. He has before him a most extensive and promising field of labour and usefulness, in which we wish him every success; and we understand that additional missionaries will soon make their appearance to supply the other vacancies in our colonial vineyard, and by their arrival among us from time to time, afford undoubting testimony that

"The gud auld Kirk o' Scotland
She's no in rums yet."

—The Colonist.

News of the Month.

We cannot undertake to furnish our readers, in our limited space, with a full account of all the occurrences which are spread over the red pages of our daily and weekly Journals, as we have been requested, by some of our Correspondents, to publish a brief abstract of passing events, the following summary will not be altogether uninteresting.

The Imperial Legislature was this year opened at an unusually early season, from the great urgency of affairs. Parliament was opened by her Majesty in person on the 1st ult., with a speech from the throne, and usual solemnities.

The two principal measures adopted by the Legislature since the beginning of the Session, the foreign enlistment Bill, and a Bill regulating the services of the Militia in the Colonies. Both these Bills have become necessary from the exigencies of the present war in the East, which has been protracted beyond expectation. The siege of Sebastopol

is carried on with unabated energy, although, the Allies have to contend with many formidable obstacles—from the determined opposition of the Russians, and the severity of the Climate. Much sympathy is felt for our brave soldiers amidst the hardships of the siege, and large contributions of provisions, clothing and furniture have been forwarded by Government, as well as by private individuals for their winter supplies. Numerous reinforcements of troops are constantly leaving Britain for the Crimea, in aid of our expeditionary force. France enters, as might be expected, with great energy into this formidable conflict. The Emperor is indefatigable in his exertions in sustaining the contest, and the whole nation is inspired with warlike enthusiasm. Happily the best understanding prevails amongst the allies, who vie with each other in acts of friendship, and the admiration of the French for the courage and bravery of the British in the battles of Alma, Balaklava and Inkerman seems to be unbounded. Austria though slow in her movements, has entered into a treaty with the Western powers to aid them in their exertions; and has occupied the principalities in favor of Turkey; while Prussia still strives, with timid and irresolute counsels, to preserve a cautious and wavering neutrality. The progress of this war has led to various political speculations respecting the reorganization of the Kingdom of Poland, the permanent occupation of the Crimea and other means, for curbing and restraining the formidable and unbounded ambition of Russia.

The events in the other states of Europe possess no uncommon interest.

Turning to our own Province, we also have had a short session of the Legislature to consider the Reciprocity Treaty between Great Britain and America, and pass such acts as were required by this new commercial arrangement. The Legislature meets again, at the end of the month, to enter upon the ordinary business of the Session. Various and conflicting opinions are entertained respecting the influence and operation of the new measures upon our commerce and Fisheries.

A very brisk, and, we believe, a highly remunerative trade has been carried on by our merchants and farmers during the past Autumn, which is now drawing to a close, and the Province at large enjoys much internal prosperity. Our provincial Railway has been pushed forward by the Commissioners with praiseworthy zeal and energy. They have received large and almost unlimited powers from the Legislature to carry on this enterprise, and new Contracts have been lately advertised which will afford profitable employment to the labouring classes during the winter months.

One of the deeds of most absorbing interest at the present moment is the efforts for raising a Patriotic fund to provide for the widows and orphans of those slain in battle with the Russians. Very large sums have already been, and still continue to be raised in Great Britain and the Colonies on behalf of this highly laudable object. Our Legislature has voted £2,000 to the Fund, which we hope, for the credit of the Government and Province, will be still further augmented. A Bazaar lately held in this city has realized the handsome sum of £360; and a meeting has been advertised, under the auspices of his Worship the Mayor, to enlist the sympathy and liberality of the community at large, in favour of this object. Preserved as we have been, during the past year, by a merciful Provi-

dence, from the ravages of the cholera, far removed from the theatre of a protracted and bloody war, enjoying in the highest degree, the blessings of civil and religious liberty, favoured with an abundant harvest, and surrounded with every social and domestic comfort, we have surely great cause of gratitude to the giver of all good.

We beg leave to return our sincere thanks to our correspondents for the kindness which they have shown at the commencement of our labours and the sums which they have remitted as subscriptions for the publication. We shall avail ourselves of the valuable information they have had the goodness to forward to us, and we hope to be favoured with a continuance of their esteemed communications.

Persons in this city, who have not received copies of our Journal, and are desirous to become subscribers, are requested to leave their names and subscriptions, with Mr. William Grant, Bookseller, George Street.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR THE MISSION SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH?—Our want of success in obtaining more liberal contributions from our congregations may, and we really believe does, arise in very many cases from causes less serious, and more easily removed, than those possible ones which we have mentioned. What are these?

1. *One cause is want of instruction in the Christian duty of aiding missionary enterprises.* It is deplorable to hear a minister of the Gospel questioning the propriety of bringing such topics before his people—"They don't like to be asked to give,"—"They are not fond of parting with their money,"—"They have never been accustomed to give," &c., &c. And, accordingly, the minister, knowing the subject to be "unpopular," either avoids it altogether, mentions it in such a way as to give the impression that he is not hearty in the cause himself, or almost apologizes for saying anything regarding this duty! Conceive only of a man never preaching upon some of the commandments from fear of offending transgressors, or apologizing for introducing so unpleasant a subject as the decalogue! And if it be Christ's will that the Gospel should be preached to all nations,—if He has left the work of doing so as a holy trust to His Church, so that each member of that Church must share in the responsibility of doing it,—how can a minister incur the awful charge of slurring to declare to His people the *whole* counsel of God? Professing Christians must therefore be instructed in their duty, that they may apprehend with their consciences what their Lord and Master requires from them; and they must have also unfolded to them the exalted privilege which is thus conferred upon them, and the ennobling effect which the duty must have on their own souls when discharged in a right spirit as unto God and not unto man.

2. *Another cause of failure is want of instruction in the work done by missions.* There ought to be accurate and full information given to the congregation, from time to time, in reference to each Scheme of the Church, its objects, operations, success, difficulties, failures, &c.,—so that a real interest may be awakened in the Schemes as belonging to members, and not to ministers only; and that each communicant should so feel his own individual contributions and prayers linked to those Christian enterprises, that their success