

nial vineyard, to which, in a manner so honourable to all parties concerned, I have been appointed, it affords me the highest pleasure to be able to bear the amplest testimony to your uniform kindness to myself and family since our arrival among you, as well as to your liberal and active support of the church to which I ministered. I have, indeed, found you always most willing to co-operate with me in every work and measure which I might deem best calculated to promote the interests and prosperity of the congregation; and for such liberality and support you merit not only my warmest gratitude, but also the best thanks of the Church at home.

"With regard to my own services in this district, no one is more sensible of their imperfections and shortcomings than myself: nevertheless I can truly say that, in the exercise of the talents and gifts bestowed on me by my Heavenly Master, carefully cultivated by study and prayer, I have ever endeavoured, under the solemn conviction of duty, to declare unto my people the whole counsel of God, and to expound, in all their fulness and applicability to the various exigencies of man, the Scriptures of truth, which are able to make wise unto salvation. And now, gentlemen, I leave you, with the lively hope that the parent Church will speedily send to you another clergyman who, both by his example and by his instructions, will prove to the Presbyterians of this district a pious, faithful, and useful pastor. Your generous treatment of your late minister will be encouraging to his successor.

"In bidding you farewell, gentlemen and Christian friends, my ardent prayer is, that 'the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and that your whole spirit, and body, and soul, be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ'; and the 'Lord of peace himself give you peace by all means. The Lord be with you.'—Yours very sincerely,

"JOHN MACLEAN, your late Minister."

New Church at Gareloch.

We have just learned from our attentive correspondent at Pictou, that the congregation at Gareloch, on the Middle River of Pictou, under the pastoral superintendence of the Rev. Alexander McLean, have determined to erect a large and commodious building for public worship, and that they have subscribed within a very short time, £800 for building this new edifice, on a spot close by the site of the old church. The situation is a very beautiful one, in the centre of a large and populous neighbourhood, who are all attached to the Church of Scotland, with roads leading to it from all the adjoining settlements. Only a very few months have elapsed since the Salt Springs Church was opened for public worship for the accommodation of Mr. McLean's congregation on the West River, and now another building is about to be commenced on the Middle River, under his auspices, for which liberal provision has already been made by the members of his congregation. As friends to such a noble cause, we cannot fail to wish them great success in their new undertaking.

Patriotic Fund.

We announced in our last number, that subscriptions have been commenced in this Province towards the patriotic fund, in aid of the widows and orphans of British soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war in the East. Since that time public meetings have been held in this city, in Truro, Maitland, Yarmouth, and other places, to promote the objects of this fund, and liberal subscriptions are flowing into the Committee from all directions. It would be strange indeed, if the inhabitants of Halifax and the province at large, who have enjoyed such friendly intercourse with the British army and navy and have had their properties often protected by their intrepidity from destruction, should not contribute liberally to this fund.

News of the Month.

Although all Europe is at the present moment in a state of great commotion, Couriers hastening from one court to another, and troops despatched in large numbers to the seat of war, we are still unable to point to any very important or decisive movement in the political world. The siege of Sebastopol is still carried on with unabated ardour, and an assault upon the garrison is hourly expected, but this formidable fortress still resists the skill and valour of the allied forces. We have despatches from the generals and letters from the officers and men in the camp, we have lengthened correspondence in the London Journals, describing in a very vivid and striking manner, the condition of the troops, the progress of siege operations, the sorties from the Russian forces, and the indomitable valour of the French and British troops, and yet hope is still deferred, Sebastopol is still in possession of the Russian armies. It is believed that the descent of Omer Pacha from Bulgaria, with between forty and fifty thousand Turkish troops, upon the coasts of the Crimea, will produce a very deep impression, and cut off the Russian supplies of troops and provisions from the interior of the country, hemming in the garrison of Sebastopol entirely within the fortress. The longer the war lasts, public feeling appears to declare itself more openly in favour of the allies. Sardinia has joined the Western Powers, and has engaged to send fifteen thousand troops to the Crimea. Austria and Prussia are entreating the Czar to return to a friendly footing with the allies; and it is believed that he himself is very desirous for peace, if he knew how it could be honorably obtained. But after embroiling Europe in a protracted and bloody war, and complicating the relations between the different powers, he cannot expect very favourable terms of peace from his opponents. The British and French fleets, have now safely returned from the Baltic, and a number of the ships are to be engaged during the winter months, in carrying troops to the Crimea.

The British Parliament had re-assembled after the holidays, and was vigorously engaged in devising means for carrying on the war in the East recruiting at home and enlisting soldiers in Switzerland and other foreign countries. The popular feeling in favour of this necessary and just war with the despotic and oppressive power of Russia does not

appear to have at all diminished. Should the war last for a few months longer, Russia will find herself, if she is not already, without a friend or an ally. Turning to our own province, the most important event is the re-assembling of our Legislature. The chief business, which has occupied their attention is of a preliminary nature, receiving despatches, appointing Committees, and presenting public and private petitions.

The revenue is in a flourishing condition, and we trust that the Legislature will appropriate it in a judicious and economical manner.

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.

To Correspondents.

With few exceptions, agents have not been appointed for this periodical in the different parts of the country, as the managing committee relied on the ministers and leading people connected with the Church, taking an interest in it, and furthering its circulation. They believed that the great body of heads of families, with the exception of such as are absolutely poverty-stricken, would come forward and take copies, not grudgingly and as a favour, but frankly and as a duty; feeling themselves the obliged parties, that others, for the good of the Church, were willing to undertake the trouble of Editorship and management.

From some congregations they have had returns such as they expected from all—as for example from New Glasgow—where the number of copies taken must be greater than the number of families.

From some districts, however, they have had no returns; and from others they have been very much below what they ought to have been. The Committee are aware that sufficient time may not have elapsed to hear from the remoter localities, but they trust that leading members of the Church in this and the adjoining Provinces will make it their business, as it is their duty, to obtain subscriptions and that they will forward their orders as speedily as possible.—Back numbers will be supplied.

THE LATE REV. COLL MACDONALD, OF PORTREE, SKYE.—This venerable clergyman, whose death is announced in our obituary, was a native of Uist, and was upwards of 90 years of age. He has laboured in the ministry for nearly a quarter of a century. His first appointment was to the missionary station of Strontian, where he was much esteemed, and where for many years after his departure he was held in pleasing remembrance. Ever since his settlement in Portree, about 40 years ago, he has been uniformly characterised as a man of sterling integrity and moral worth, of a clear and discriminating mind, and of a most friendly and amiable disposition. Well acquainted with the Highland character under all its bearings, he was always ready to forward the best interests of the poor, and to give sound direction and advice in matters both