

would be stronger than ever previously. It is known however that the diversity of views prevalent, the limited means at the disposal of the Synod, and the resignation of Rev. Dr. King, to take effect a year from that time, changed the whole aspect of affairs, prevented the choice of a Professor and left the Hall with a smaller faculty of Professors than usual, and with an uncertainty respecting its future very unfavourable to the securing of a good attendance of students.

In these circumstances, very different indeed from what they had a month previously anticipated, the Board, on the 19th of July, met for a careful consideration of the position and prospects for the season of the Theological school under their charge. They felt relieved on learning that the branches of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics, having been gone over at last session, would not be required during the approaching one, and that Rev. Dr. King felt quite ready and hopeful that his strength would prove sufficient to warrant him in lecturing daily for one hour on Systematic Theology, and one on Church History; while Rev. Professor McKnight undertook to give the same amount of time, and to teach the same classes as last year. Satisfied with these arrangements, the Board felt that by the good hand of God strengthening their Professors for their work, that the students coming forward would be fully and profitably employed.

Even at this early date however, they thought it to be their duty to consider a proposal referred to them by the Synod of 1868, and referred again in 1869, of employing a few competent Lecturers, members of Synod, to deliver short courses of lectures on such subjects as "Modern errors and phases of Unbelief," "Relations between Science and Revelation," "Evangelistic Theology."

The Board felt that there were many difficulties in carrying such a measure into practical effect, especially in present circumstances, and came at their first meeting to no conclusion farther than a postponement for a month, during which all were to make it the subject of earnest thought. At the close of the month, the members of the Board on meeting seemed still undecided, but after conversation and exchange of views, resolved to request some 12 or 14 persons to give a lecture each on some one or other of the subjects named above or analogous, the topics discussed to be outside of the usual course of the regular lectures. Eight responded favourably and a fortnightly course was arranged.

The regular session was opened with an able and attractive lecture by Rev. Professor McKnight, on "the Characteristic features of Hebrew Poetry." The audience

was large and attentive, and Rev. Dr. Ross followed up the Inaugural by an address on the duty of the people towards their Theological tutors and students, urging the duties of hearty support of Professors, social intercourse with students, and earnest prayer for both from family altar, prayer-meeting and church.

The number and standing of the students with the branches taught will be best learned from the following reports by the Professors.

REPORT OF REV. DR. KING.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, }
31st May, 1870. }

My Dear Sir,—

During the last session, the Theological Class was attended by two students of the third year, two of the second year, and five of the first year. It was attended also by Mr. Hugh A. Robertson, a member of the Presbyterian Church in this Province which is in connection with the Established Church of Scotland. He had gone out in the *Day-spring* to the New Hebrides, where he remained for some years; and is now preparing to return to that field as a missionary, to labour in connection with our missionaries there. All the students except those of the third year, attended the Church History class; and I had every reason to be highly satisfied with the diligence and proficiency of the whole.

Without imagining that my plan is to be a rule to any that may succeed me, it may be useful, as furnishing information as to the state in which the classes are now left, that I should mention that in my lectures in Theology I took the Confession of Faith as my Text Book, and followed it out in three portions, very unequal in length, but each furnishing as much subject as could be overtaken in the three sessions of the Curriculum. In the first part of the course, we never got beyond the third chapter of the Confession of Faith. The second part brought us on to about the twelfth chapter; and the third part, to about the 30th or 31st. The Church History class occupied two sessions, commencing with the laying of the foundation of the Christian Church on the day of Pentecost, and bringing it down to the dawn of the Reformation from Popery. This last session was occupied with the first part in both departments. In Theology, we found material enough in the first two chapters of the Confession; but this included Natural Theology, the wide field of Apologetics, and the doctrines of Inspiration, of the Divine attributes, and of the Holy Trinity. Church History, including the organization and government of the Christian Church according to the