

The Session of the Divinity Hall was opened on Tuesday 16th October. In the absence of the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Ferrier commenced with devotional exercises, followed by an address. The Rev. Dr. Taylor read the Introductory Lecture. The Rev. William Ritchie, of Dunse, Scotland, who was present, being requested, delivered an address, and the Rev. Mr. Dick concluded with prayer. The Rev. Alexander Kennedy was also present. The number of students who entered was ten, viz: of the fourth year, Mr. F. Tisdell of the the third year, Messrs. A. McFaul and R. C. Moffat, of the second year, Messrs. T. G. Chesnut, W. Fletcher and D. Waters; of the first year, Messrs. W. Donald, R. Hall, R. Hume and J. White.

The Committee agreed that the Grants from the Fund for Students should be made in the form of Exhibitions, of £11, £10, and £9 each, according to merit; and that with the view of ascertaining merit, an examination of the Students, by means of written papers, on the subjects appointed by the Synod for examination in Presbyteries, should take place; and a sub-committee was appointed for carrying out this arrangement. On three successive evenings, accordingly, examinations were conducted; and the Sub-Committee afterwards gave in the following report of their procedure, which the Committee agreed to sanction and approve, viz:—"Toronto, 12th Dec. 1855. The Sub-Committee on Theological Education have carefully considered the papers given in at the Examinations on the 17th, 18th, and 19th October last and feel highly satisfied with them upon the whole, taking into account the circumstances of the case. The following is their award:—Fourth year, to Mr. Tisdell, £11; third year to Mr. Moffat, £10; second year, to Messrs. Waters and Chesnut, who are bracketed, £11, and to Mr. Fletcher £10; first year, to Messrs. Hume and Donald, who are bracketed, £11, to Mr. Hall £10, and to Mr. White, £10. Those bracketed are regarded as of so nearly equal merit that no attempt is made to distinguish them. The others in each year are regarded in the order of merit, as named above, or where there is only one in any year, his rank is indicated by the sum awarded to him. The Sub-Committee consider all to be of such respectability that they have not thought it necessary to award to any only £9. Mr. McFaul did not submit to any examination, but very respectfully begged to be excused on the ground that he did not know of the examination. The Sub-Committee regret that he did not take the same course as the others, especially as no direct intimation was given to any, and as the subjects of examination were all just those on which Presbyteries are required by the Synod to examine. The Sub-Committee, nevertheless, agree to give him £10, which, however, they do not wish to be regarded as a precedent. Dr. Taylor stated to the Sub-Committee, before the consideration of the Papers, that Mr. Waters was absent from one of the examinations, but had been allowed, on application, to write his papers afterwards in Dr. Taylors' house, and presence in doing which he had been held in all respects strictly to the same conditions, as at the public examinations. The Sub-Committee agreed to accept these Papers, but to declare that this shall not form a precedent, as they regard it of importance that the examinations shall be simultaneous and public. (Signed)

"W. ORMISTON"

The Committee felt much gratified by receiving so favourable a report, and are of opinion that such examinations are fitted to be exceedingly beneficial, and ought to be continued.

After the sums above specified as paid to students, together, with £4 13s 9d, as expenses of printing, postage and travelling are deducted from the amount received for aiding and encouraging Students, there remains, in fund, £178 0s 0½d, which will bear interest at 6 per cent. from 16th October last.