

to return what they have received,* unless indeed, they intend still to apply for license.

There are many topics connected with Theological Education, which it would be natural, on such an occasion as this, to take up; and on which a few remarks might perhaps profitably be made. But I have no heart to say a word on such subjects. The close of the Session, though it relieves me from considerable labour, has always had a saddening and depressing effect on my mind; and, this year, it may easily be understood, the weight is ten-fold greater than usual. Not to advert to the termination of my Professorship, which concerns chiefly myself, I am persuaded there are others who will heave a sigh, when they reflect that, in a few minutes, the Divinity Hall of the United Presbyterian Church will be amongst the things that were. We confidently indeed look forward to better days, and anticipate that the contemplated union will be attended with great advantages in regard to the training of our students. Yet from the constitution of the mind, changes, and especially extinctions, even though they be expected to be productive of good, naturally awaken feelings of a melancholy and painful description.

In taking leave of the students, I beg to remind them that they will now be classed and associated with those who have had training in another institution, where superior advantages are enjoyed. It is not to be expected that our men should be in all respects quite equal to those who have had the benefit of three distinguished Professors, instead of the one humble individual who now addresses you. But though the advantage of numerous and eminent instructors is not to be overlooked, it is a gross delusion to imagine that the proficiency of students depends exclusively, or even mainly, on that. Far more is to be traced, under God's blessing, to their own diligence and assiduity; and I confess I shall be ashamed, and, withal, somewhat disappointed, if my old pupils are found manifesting on the whole any marked inferiority. I trust that they will meekly and humbly, and in a kindly, brotherly spirit, take their place in the College, and will strive by intense application on their own part, and earnest and respectful attention to the instructions of their Professors, accompanied with fervent prayer to Him who alone teacheth to profit—that by all this, they will strive to bear themselves creditably during their preparatory course; and that at the close they will come forth workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. I sincerely, affectionately, and solemnly bid them farewell. I commend them to God and to the word of His grace. The Angel which redeemed Jacob from all evil bless the lads!

On withdrawing from the place in the service of the church I have been honoured to occupy, I beg to be allowed to say that if any imagine that I have an overweening conceit of the manner in which the duties of the office have been discharged, they are very widely

* £91 in all.