

nose, a firm set mouth, and bright black eyes shining like a hawk's,—a deep voice, and a strong Scotch accent. He opened the class with a short but impressive prayer. Then the catalogue was "called" by one of the students, who was styled Censor. It was no uncommon thing for the young men to answer to their names and then retire from the class, which they were enabled to do at the back of a high partition. The Doctor one morning remarked that the answers came, in a good many instances, not from the centre of the room, but from behind this partition; and one of the students, more unguarded than the rest, answered to his name—"here"—in a loud voice. This immediately attracted the Professor's attention, and he ordered the Censor to call the same name over again. No reply being made, the old Doctor added, "There are some gentlemen at the back there *in meditatione fugæ*," upon which all the culprits rushed to the door and fled. The Divinity Hall was held in a low dark room, on the ground floor of the College, and the want of light compelled a recourse to candles, which were paid for by a levy of sixpence made on every student who delivered a discourse. This afterwards became a perquisite of the door-keeper, after the necessity for candles had ceased. The Doctor was sometimes very severe in his critiques of the students' discourses. He was highly displeased if a young man affected a flowery style. He said to one, whose style was of this description, "Sir, your style is too flowery: one would suppose that you had been plucking flowers from Hervey's flower-garden; you must write in a plainer and less ornate manner, otherwise it will degenerate into downright nonsense." He was still more severe in his strictures, when he detected anything approaching to heterodoxy. "Sir," he said to a young man who had betrayed symptoms of this, "that's rank Arminianism, and I cannot sustain your discourse. I would strongly advise you to read your Bible with more attention, Sir, especially St. Paul's epistle to the Romans." In another instance, after having expressed strong disapprobation of a very poor discourse, he wound up by roundly telling the student that neither God nor nature intended him for a minister. On the whole, his criticisms, if sometimes sharp, were just and appropriate. The Town Council, as Patrons of the College, were very anxious at last that the Doctor should resign, as he was getting too old and infirm for his professional duties. With this view a deputation of their body waited upon him and represented to him in the most respectful manner possible the state of his health and his great age, promising him a retiring salary. But he would not hear of retirement, and continued to occupy the chair, while he was quite unfit for its duties. The consequence was, there was a complete uproar among the students. Some of the more violent stood at the door of the Hall to prevent their fellow-students entering; others ruffed with their feet, others whistled, others sung songs, and others screamed aloud, while the greater part laughed at the tumult; and the unfortunate student, who was reading his discourse, proceeded in dumb show. In order to restore order in the class, the matter was compromised by Principal Baird and Dr. David Ritchie and Dr. Lee officiating for Dr. Ritchie; the former reading his lectures, and the two latter criticising the discourses. This arrangement continued until the Doctor's death, which happened, as far as I recollect, during the course of the following summer.

Dr. McKnight was minister of 'Haddies' Hole,' one of the four Churches under the roof of old St. Giles's. He was colleague to Dr. Brown, Professor of Rhetoric in the University; he was an out and out Moderate, both in Church politics and in his mode of preaching. He was an excellent scholar, had a fine person and gentlemanly manners; his sermons were well composed and chaste in style, but deficient in evangelical doctrine. The place where the Doctor made the most conspicuous figure was the General Assembly, where he acted as sub-clerk. He was particularly active in calling to order. Well do I remember the