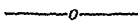


there is the darkness of irreligion—the darkness of ungodliness—the darkness of wicked and evil dispositions—the darkness of unbelief—the darkness of hopeless despair! What can comfort such a home? There may be often the wild flashes of a reckless joy—the fitful gleams of a false merriment, the lurid glare of a forced happiness, but oh! there is not the steady light of heaven's own beams—the beautiful day—the warm sun-light of hope, piercing even the clouds which have arisen from the mists and vapours of earth, and shedding a joy which is felt wherever these beams fall! Have you, dear readers, this light in your hearts—in your homes? Have you light in your dwellings? Or are you steadily shutting out that light? Are you living in ignorance of God, in neglect of his ordinances?—Do ye not make the word of God the lamp of your feet, and the light of your path? Are you walking in darkness? Is neither the Knowledge of religion, nor the practice of it, at all your care? How will it be with you, in affliction, in trial, under personal suffering, at death? What do ye hope will cheer and comfort you then? Will any of the joys of the world serve you in any stead then? And when your soul is expiring, is it to go out forever in darkness, or emerge only in the light of hell's tormenting flames? These are surely solemn questions! Remember that light or darkness is the state of every one of us—that we are either darkness or light in the Lord—that we have either light in our dwellings—or darkness, the darkness of irreligion, of unbelief, and that nothing can relieve that darkness, but the illumination of God's word, the light of faith, a light which will be ours, if we but prefer the light to the darkness—ours when we believe in Jesus—when we walk in the truth—when we live in the light of God's countenance, and when we keep our eye steadily fixed on the glories of the eternal world.



BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT.—If you see not a certainty, judge it not certain. If you see a probability, judge it but probable. "Prove all things, and hold fast that which is good." The Bereans are commended for searching the Scriptures, and seeing whether the things were so which Paul had spoken. Truth seareth not the light. It is like gold that loseth nothing by the fire. Darkness is its greatest enemy and dishonour.—*Baxter.*

COLLEGE.

SESSION 1849-50.

The following Report with respect to the Session of the College 1849-50, was submitted by Professor King to the Synod, at their meeting held at New Glasgow in June last.

The Session which was opened on the first day of November last, was commenced with the most promising appearances. In the course of a short time, eighteen students, were enrolled; to whom, at a later period, was added one who wished to prosecute his studies in the preliminary classes with a view to the ministry among the Baptists. Of these, the three students who had attended the Theological class last session now formed a class of the second year's course.—Mr George Sutherland and Mr. John Alexander Ross, who had attended the preliminary classes last year, were now admitted to attend the first class of Theology, along with Mr Murdoch Sutherland, a Catechist, sent out last summer by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, and Mr Neil McKay, Rector of the Free Church Academy in Halifax; both of whom had completed their preliminary studies in Scotland. Messrs. W. G. Forbes, Lauchlan Campbell, and W. C. Clarke, the three senior students, in Theology, with Mr Murdoch Sutherland, also attended a course of Church History.* The remainder of the students, twelve in number, were engaged in prosecuting their studies in the preliminary classes. Mr. Forrester did not see it to be consistent with his own proper duties, as a Pastor of a congregation, to give this session, as he had done during the former one, a course of lectures on Physical Science. Mr. Honeyman, however, formed senior and junior classes for Hebrew, which were attended, the former by two, and the latter by four students, who prosecuted that branch of study with great vigour and success till the close of the session.

In the progress of the session we were tried with sore visitations. In the course of December, Mr. Robert McDonald, a very promising student who was attending for the third winter at Halifax, was seized with small pox, and died on the

* Messrs. Lauchlan Campbell, Murdoch Sutherland and Neil McKay, have, in consequence of the state of their health, returned to Scotland.