

On the following day (Thursday, 16th ult.) the College Committee, together with the students and a few friends, met in the Davy Hall, Ontario Terrace, Toronto, for the purpose of admitting Dr. Willis to the Professorship of Divinity.

The Rev. Mr. Rintoul, Convener of the College Committee, occupied the chair.

After supplicating the divine blessing and guidance in the business of the day, the chairman briefly adverted to the history of the College, dwelling on the indications of the divine favour which were manifest throughout it. He shewed that the very success which had attended it, had brought the Synod to a unanimous resolution to have a Professor of Theology, who, entirely separated from the pastoral work, might be able to give his undivided attention to the duties of the Theological Professorship:—that Mr. Bayne had been sent forth by the Synod to obtain from the Free Church a number of gifts and experience suitable for this most important office:—that he had been sent forth and followed by the prayers of many, and was now present to report his success. He then called on Mr. Bayne to give an account of his mission.

Mr. Bayne then rose, and stated that he was received in the most friendly manner by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, who assisted him to the utmost of their ability in furthering the object which he had in view. After some unavoidable delay, he was recommended by them to invite the Rev. Michael Willis, D. D., to accept of the Professorship. This he did, when, after deliberate and prayerful consideration, the doctor declared his willingness to undertake the work, as he looked upon Canada as a most important field, and the training of a native ministry as the principal means of promoting its highest and permanent welfare. His attached flock felt what they would suffer by the removal of one who had so long and so faithfully devoted himself to their spiritual interests; yet, being convinced of the greater importance of the office to which he was called, and the high qualifications which their esteemed pastor possessed for its peculiar duties, they cheerfully gave their consent to the translation; thus evincing, in a very high degree, the true spirit of self-denial. The Free Church Presbytery of Glasgow sustained the call to Dr. Willis, and loosed him from the pastoral charge of the Kenfield street congregation. Mr. Bayne was happy to state that the rev. doctor comes out with the unanimous concurrence and recommendation of the Colonial Committee. He also remarked, that we are deeply indebted to the doctor himself for so promptly responding to the call made upon him, in willingly submitting to a hasty separation from an attached people and the Presbytery of which he had been so long a member, in leaving for a time his family, and undertaking a stormy winter voyage, for our good; and he had no doubt but his promptitude would be duly appreciated by all concerned.

Having concluded his report, Mr. Bayne laid upon the table extracts from the minutes of the meetings of the Colonial Committee, and the Presbytery of Glasgow, relative to the appointment of Dr. Willis to the Professorship, and his release from his congregation in Glasgow.

The Rev. Professor Essoy directed the attention of the meeting to the superintending hand of God in the whole course by which the institution has been led; that we might acknowledge his goodness in thinking on us in our low estate, and especially for, at this time, sending us one so well qualified to take part in the work of tuition. He felt that we are under special obligations to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland for so frequently providing us with the services of able and effective ministers, especially in the College department, and particularly for supplying us with one so well fitted for the office for which he is designed, and who was so eminently useful in the situation which he occupied at home. He concluded by proposing that the Committee approve of the diligence of the Rev. Mr. Bayne, and that the Rev. Dr. Willis be now installed into the office of Professor of Divinity in Knox's College, Toronto.

The Rev. Mr. Harris, in a few appropriate remarks, expressed his full concurrence in all that Professor Essoy had said, and heartily seconded the motion.

The motion being put by the chairman, was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed Dr. Willis, declaring him to be admitted to the Professorship of Theology, with all the rights and privileges pertaining to the office. In a few words he said that there were good reasons for congratulating the College on the solemn transaction in which they had been engaged, because of the talents, the piety, and the well-earned reputation for ministerial gifts and theological attainments of their new Professor. And, addressing himself to Dr. Willis, the Chairman said that he could congratulate him too on his installation. Behold, said he, pointing to the students, the goodly band of youths, who, through the blessing of God, may all in some four or five years have gone forth from you to be missionaries and ministers in this youthful and rapidly rising community.

Dr. WILLIS then rose, and was heartily received by the meeting. He said that he was deeply impressed with the importance of Canada when on a visit two years ago. He then saw the great necessity for an active gospel ministry in it, and looked upon Knox's College as such an institution as would benefit the country and promote the advancement of the Presbyterian Church in it. When the call to become Professor of Divinity in the College was addressed to him by the Colonial Committee and the Rev. Mr. Bayne, after serious and prayerful consideration of the matter, he felt it to be his duty, for the glory of God and the good of his church in these lands, to accept of the same, although he knew that by so doing he would sever the most close and endearing ties. He knew that he must leave an affectionate and devoted people, who had given him many proofs that his services were valued by them, and among whom he trusted he had seen some spiritual fruits of his ministry. He knew that he must tear himself from the brethren with whom he had often taken sweet counsel regarding the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, and be far removed from those whose friendship he had long enjoyed, and whose fellowship he highly valued. Still he looked forward to something that he hoped would fill the void thus occasioned in the work before him in this land. He rejoiced to see such a goodly assembly of youths who would either immediately or ere long be under his care in the theological department, and to entertain the prospect of so many soon going forth from the institution to cultivate the vast moral wastes in this extensive country. These considerations amply compensated for the pain which he experienced in so hastily rending the most sacred and endearing ties. But he did not consider himself altogether separated from the church at home, from the brethren of his Presbytery, or from his congregation; for independently of the facility of communication which we now possess (which almost annihilates time and space), he looked upon the church of Christ as a grand whole, however far separated its members may be. The reverend doctor declared his determination, with the help of God, to devote himself to the interests of theological instruction in Knox's College, and resumed his seat.

The CHAIRMAN stated that on such an occasion it would not be at all out of place in the students to give expression to the feelings by which he was sure they were actuated; upon which,

Mr. JOHN BLACK, on the part of the students, rose and welcomed Dr. Willis as Professor of Divinity. He adverted to the doctor's visit during the session of 1845-6, that he had gained the affection and esteem of the students then attending, both as a teacher and a friend. They (and he was sure the other students now in College) rejoiced in the prospect of benefitting by the valuable instructions which he is well fitted to impart. He also expressed the gratitude of the students for the self-denying exertions of the other professors, and those who have acted as professors in former sessions of the College, as well as their deep sense of obliga-

tion to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland for their great kindness—not only as now manifested, in providing us a permanent professor, but also for temporarily supplying our wants in former sessions. He hoped that all this goodness of God towards improving the students, in providing for them suitable and devoted teachers, would lead them to more diligence in study and devotedness to the service of their great master.

Professor Essoy moved that a vote of thanks be given to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland for so readily entering into the views of our church, and furthering the object of her deputy's mission, and for all the other tokens of their regard for our welfare. This was seconded by John McMurich, Esq., and agreed to.

Professor GALT proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the Rev. Mr. Bayne, for so willingly undertaking the mission, and fulfilling it in such a judicious and satisfactory manner; which motion was seconded by Samuel Spreull, Esq., and carried.

Professor Essoy proposed a vote of thanks to the Free Church congregation of Kenfield Street, Glasgow, and the Rev. Mr. Bayne's congregation, Galt, C. W., for their willing sacrifices in behalf of the College, which was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN gave out a few verses of the 115th Psalm, beginning with the words

"The Lord of us hath mindful been,
And he will bless us still."

Which were sung with much fervour.

The Rev. Mr. HARRIS offered prayer; and the CHAIRMAN closed the meeting with the apostolic benediction.

Thus God has been again visiting our College: he has been stretching out his hand in mercy, although we deserved it not. Our institution has now, with the blessing of God, assumed a more consolidated form than the most sanguine could have anticipated in so short a time; and surely those in our church who long for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in our adopted and yet much beighted country, will be encouraged to uphold, by their prayers and offerings, an institution which gives promise of being a lasting blessing to the church and to the country at large.

N.

Knox's College, 22nd Dec., 1847.

The College Committee had a meeting on the 17th December, when Mr. Bayne attended, and gave a full report of the steps taken by him, when in Scotland, for procuring further help in the department of teaching, according to the instructions which he had received from the Acting Committee. These, however, had not led to any immediate appointment. The Committee approved of the diligence of Mr. Bayne in this matter, and, after deliberation, unanimously resolved to suspend for the present any measures for obtaining another Professor or Tutor from Scotland—to authorize the Acting Committee to call on one of the advanced students to assist in the academy, and formally to appoint, subject to the final confirmation of the Synod, the Rev. William Rintoul to the Professorship of Hebrew and the Oriental Languages.—Mr. Rintoul was accordingly so appointed.

Foreign Missions,

It is our melancholy task in this number to record the death of the Rev. JOHN MACDONALD, missionary at Calcutta. Mr. Macdonald was the son of the Rev. Dr. Macdonald, the revered Free Church minister of Ferintosh, long and favourably known as an eminent, devoted, and successful minister of Christ. He whose sudden and unexpected demise we now mourn over, was indeed a son worthy of such a sire,—a zealous and devoted missionary, whose talents were of the highest order, and whose labours, both at home and in heathen lands, were followed by manifest tokens of his heavenly master's approbation and blessing.