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THE FIRST THEOLOGICAL HALL IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

IN my last paper I gave an account of the origination of the first Colonial Theological Hall, and of the first class of students. I mentioned that of these, six received license to preach, viz.—Messrs. R. S. Patterson, John S. Murdoch, John McLean, Angus McGillivray, Hugh Ross and Hugh Dunbar. I find it stated in regard to the first four, that this took place on the eighth of June, 1824. But I believe that the last two, perhaps the last three, being Gaelic-speaking men, were licensed in the fall of 1823, in consequence of the wants of many new Gaelic settlements, and spent the following winter in Cape Breton. At the meeting of Synod in 1822, “the Presbytery of Pictou were allowed to license such of the young men, who now attend the Divinity Hall and understand the Gaelic language, as upon examination and trial they shall find qualified, to go for a few weeks to preach the gospel in some of the destitute Gaelic settlements.”

I may observe that although it was then contrary to the practice of Presbyterian Churches to employ students in mission work before licensure, yet in the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia at that time Presbyteries sometimes gave what was called “special license,” to those whose capacity and progress in study they had tested, that is authorized them to preach at certain places and times. In such cases there was an understanding that they should preach only discourses that had been approved either