

during the present session, several whose Theological Education was partly conducted in Scotland before they came to this country, and also a considerable number who, I regret to say, have laid aside the study of Divinity, and betaken themselves to other pursuits. The number who have been licensed is 16; of these, 12 are now Ministers of the Church; 2 others are under call; while 4 are at present ready to make application for license. It is a painful fact, and one which indicates that there is something unsound in our system, that the Church does not furnish an adequate supply of Ministers. I am not aware, however, that the deficiency is to be traced directly to the Hall. I do not know of any British Presbyterian denomination which presents easier terms of admission to the office of the Ministry, or which gives greater aid and encouragement to Students; nor can it be alleged that those educated here are generally unsuccessful in obtaining appointments. It is a fact that, whatever may be said of their attainments, they are quite as acceptable to the people as those who have received a much more lengthened and expensive education at home.

With regard to the Fund for Aiding and Encouraging Students in Divinity, the idea of which, I believe, originated with myself, I feel great pleasure in saying that it has been eminently successful. I trust it has been judiciously managed by the Committee; and I feel confident it has been highly advantageous to the Hall. Our Church, I think, has done itself great credit in this matter, though a considerable proportion of the Congregations have stood entirely aloof. Two individuals also have most generously contributed £10 apiece, for several years, and were prepared to continue their contributions. No means for raising this money have ever been used, but of the most simple and unexciting kind, yet wherever the Minister has shewn himself cordial, the people have liberally and handsomely come forward. It is sometimes complained that our people are niggardly in their contributions for religious objects. My direct experience of them relates almost entirely to this fund; and I feel bound to bear most unequivocal testimony in their favor. That testimony too, is the more valuable, as the contribution made, was not for the immediate object of securing preaching for themselves, but for advancing the cause of Education, and assisting to provide a supply of Ministers for the denomination at large. No application has been made to any Congregation, oftener than once, yet we have always had abundance, and there is a considerable surplus to be handed over to the Synod. Our plan has been to give an Exhibition of £10 to each Student applying for it, trusting to every one's honour to make no application unless necessary. The entire sum expended during the six years the scheme has been in operation, is £566.\* One individual licensed has most creditably refunded the Exhibition he received, and several who have received Exhibitions, but have not gone forward to license, are regarded by the Committee and by many others, as bound, in honour and integrity,

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\* At first a few Exhibitions of £11 were given.