

## I. CLOSING OF THE SEMINARY, 1853.

On Wednesday, August 31st, the Board met with Professor Ross and the students, in West River Meeting House, for the purpose of proceeding with the annual examination. Besides the Board, a number of ministers and others, who take an interest in the Seminary, were present. The examination of the Logic class was first proceeded with. A few questions were put by Professor Ross on Logic in general, and then, a searching examination was gone into, at the suggestion of the Board, on the powers of conception and memory. The answers given by the students were for the most part, ready and accurate; and the whole exercise gave to the Board the completest satisfaction. Each of the students composed about 6 essays during the session, and by each of them, one of these essays was read as a specimen. To give the Synod an idea of the nature and variety of subjects on which the minds of the young men were exercised, we may mention the titles of those which were read. Mr James F. McGilvray read an essay on *Terms*; Mr John Hattie, on *Syllogism*; Mr Duncan McLean, on the sense of *Light*; Mr John McKenzie, on *Propositions*; Mr John David McGilvray, on the sense of *Hearing*; and Mr Robert Laird, on *Consciousness*.

Seven students were present in the Moral Philosophy class, the examination of which was next proceeded with. The topic selected by the Board for examination was the *Freedom of the Will*. On this very interesting but difficult subject, the answers given were clear, distinct, and pointed; evidencing at once the excellence of the Professor's prelections, and the diligence and attention of the students. An essay was read by each of the students; by Mr John McDonald, on *Philosophy*; by Mr George M. Grant, on *Duty as indicated by the light of nature*; by Mr Isaac Patterson, on the *existence of the Deity*; by Samuel F. Johnston, on the *difference between Mercy and Pity*; Daniel Fraser, on the *Immortality of the Soul*; by Mr George Isaac McKenzie, on the *Freedom of the Will*, and by Mr McKinnon, on the dif-

ferent significations of the synonymes *murus*, *mania*, and *paries*. Six or seven such essays were composed, during the season, by each of the students. These essays were written with much care, composed with taste, and in general, read with effect.

In the afternoon the Board examined the Latin, Greek, and Mathematical classes. The students of the languages were arranged in two classes—the senior and junior. The senior class was examined on *Juvenal* in Latin, and in extracts from the *Odyssey* in Greek; the junior on *Virgil* in Latin, and on extracts from *Xenophon's Anabasis* in Greek. In *Geometry* several problems were demonstrated. The examination lasted for about three hours. The Board were highly satisfied with all the exercises gone through; with the successful efforts and labors of the Professor; with the diligence and conduct of the students; and with the general management and government of the Institution.

## II. THE DIVINITY HALL, 1853.

On Thursday, September 1st, the Board met in the Meeting House, West River, for the purpose of superintending the opening of the Divinity Hall. Professor Smith delivered an eloquent lecture on the *Literal and Metaphorical Interpretation of Scripture*. The students were enrolled. The number amounted to 18. On Tuesday, Oct. 11th, your Board again met with the Professors and students for the purpose of proceeding with the examination at the close of another session of the Hall. Professor Smith commenced the examination. Each of his students read and analysed a passage in *Hebrew*, in *Jeremiah* chap. 2nd. Afterwards the senior students read and analysed *Daniel* chap. 5th, in *Chaldee*. Several of the students read essays and other exercises composed during the session. Mr William Keir read an exercise and additions on *Hebrews* 1 and 3; Mr John Currie, an essay on the original language of the *Gospel* according to *Matthew*; and Mr John McLeod, an essay on the *Book of Job*. As exercises, Professor Smith had prescribed the *Apostle's Creed* and other passages, to be translated from *English* into *Hebrew*. A number of these