

fund, especially to Mrs. Wilkie for the tender of a valuable Scholarship of thirty guineas annually, in memorial of a departed son—called the Charles Wilkie Scholarship.

There were two competitions for Scholarships in 1848: one at the opening of the Divinity Hall in August, with twenty-eight Students, of whom twelve obtained Scholarships of £10 each; and another at the commencement of the Session of the University in the beginning of November, with seventy-five Students in Literature and Philosophy, of these thirty-four obtained Scholarships—thirty of £10 value, and four of £15. The University Students are first brought under a preliminary examination of their religious knowledge, which is not intended as part of the competition, but simply to mark the importance attached by the Committee to a knowledge of the first principles of the oracles of God, and this examination operates as a check upon persons going forward who might be found grossly ignorant of Divine truth, it being always understood that such as propose to compete are looking forward to the Ministry in the United Presbyterian Church. After this religious examination the competition proceeds on the different branches of College study.

The Charles Wilkie Scholarship, this year, was intended to be awarded to the most distinguished competitor of the fifth theological year. But only one Student came forward; and he, of his own accord, and most honorably to himself, proposed, being alone, to withdraw, to which the Committee reluctantly agreed. With the consent of the munificent Foundress, it was, on this occasion, divided into three equal parts, and given to Students who had not received, but were deserving of, Scholarships.

The Committee had occasion to remark, with pleasure, that both classes of Students had acquitted themselves most creditably, and in a degree greater than on former similar competitions. They felt themselves warranted to conclude that the scheme had already produced highly beneficial results. Indeed, it seemed to stimulate and advance, not the competitors alone, but the whole body of the Students.

The character, design, and effects of this Scholarship Fund will be more fully apparent by a few extracts from the successive annual reports of the Committee.

“The Committee may state the satisfaction they had in observing that a goodly proportion of the academical honours dispensed by the several Universities, at the close of the Session, have been borne off by our successful competitors, and the no less satisfaction, mingled, perhaps, with some degree of pride, with which they have learned that, at least, one who was unsuccessful with us, obtained by competition, a College Bursary at the opening of the Session, and retired laden with honours at the close. Nor does this reflect the slightest discredit on either the Committee, or on the Faculties, or Professors of the Universities, as having arrived at opposite conclusions; for, in the first place, the bodies of competitors were different, and, secondly, what specially deserves attention, the subjects of competition with us were much more extensive than at College. There, competition, especially for Bursaries, is generally limited to Latin, or, at most, extended to Greek; and, in the case now referred to, the Student was found by this Committee to excel in these branches, and his failure