

NUMBER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS IN SCOTLAND.

We are indebted to the *News of the Churches*, for the facts which we here lay before our readers, regarding the attendance on the various Theological Halls in Scotland. At Aberdeen, 78; at St. Andrew's 33; at Glasgow, 86; at Edinburgh, 94; in all 294. This number will represent about 73 added to the list of probationers in connection with the Established Church. The number of students attending the Free Church Theological Halls during the past session was: at Glasgow, 45; at Aberdeen, 43; at Edinburgh, 101; in all 189. This represents about 47 added to list of probationers. It may be noticed that in session 1856-57, when the Glasgow Hall was organized, the total number of students at the three halls was 184; in session 1857-58, the number was 160; in session 1858-59, the number was 194; and in session 1859-60, it was 187. The number of students attending the United Presbyterian Hall for the past ten years was:—In 1850, 151; in 1851, 160; in 1852, 185; in 1853, 191; in 1854, 185; in 1855, 188; in 1856, 202; in 1857, 194; in 1858, 197; in 1859, 194; and in 1860, 181. As each student is required to attend five sessions at Hall, the number for last year (181) will represent about 36 added to the list of probationers. The session continues eight weeks. There are four professors. There are at present attending the Congregational Theological Institution in Scotland, 15 students. During the past ten years the average number has been about 12. Each student generally attends four sessions, his attendance at Hall commencing simultaneously with his attendance at College. The Hall is in session eight months, continuing three months after the close of the College session. The above number will indicate an addition to the staff of preachers of about three each year. The Theological Hall of the Reformed Presbyterian Church was attended during the past session by 10 students. On the death of Dr. Andrew Symington of Paisley, this hall was removed to Glasgow in 1854. Dr. William Symington of Glasgow was appointed Professor of Systematic Theology, and Dr. Gould of Edinburgh, of Biblical Criticism and Church History. Students are required to attend the Hall five sessions. They are admitted after the third session at College. The average number of students at this Hall since it was removed to Glasgow has been 13. Each session continues eight weeks—August and September. The Theological Hall of the United Original Secession Church was attended during the past session by five students. This is about the average number of students since 1852, in which year a large number of the ministers and congregations of this Church joined the Free Church. Students are required to attend the hall four sessions, and are admitted the third session at College. The Rev. Matthew Murray of Glasgow is Professor. The course of study at the Hall comprehends Apologetics, Systematic Theology, and the critical reading of the New Testament in the original. Thus the total number of students in Scotland attending the Theological Halls of the five Dissenting denominations above named is 308: and of students attending the Established Church Halls, 294; in all, 692; representing about 159 added to the number of probationers in all the Churches.

The Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces has good reason to be thankful for the number of students that attend her institutions. In proportion to the membership of our Church we have more students than any of the Scottish Churches. We need them all, and more too. The future strength and usefulness of our Church will greatly depend on the number and the attainments of our students. Ministers should take pains in encouraging talented young men to devote themselves to the good work of preaching the gospel.