

course with them, and observation of their spirit, deportment and success in study, during one or two sessions, which may be advantageously spent by them in College, whatever their ultimate destination may be. The Student ought, of course, to be made fully aware of his probationary position, so that he may have nothing to complain of, should he ultimately be advised to turn his attention to some other sphere of usefulness.

With respect to the Entrants of last session, who were thirteen in number, the Committee have peculiar pleasure in stating the very favorable impressions which they have formed of the greater part of them, both as to their spiritual and intellectual character. They are, indeed, taken altogether, a company of young men of great promise. With reference to them, and to the whole body of Students, the Synod and the Church at large may well "thank God and take courage." Amidst all the difficulties and obstacles which beset the progress of the Gospel in this land—and the extensive and clamant destitution which yet prevails throughout its length and breadth—we cannot but regard the fact, that so great a number of young men of promise, both as to piety and talents, should have come forward to offer themselves for service in the Lord's vineyard, in connection with our Church, in a country where the reward of industry and enterprise in the ordinary walks of life is so sure and accessible, and where, also, on the other hand, there is little in the emoluments usually connected with the Gospel ministry to attract a selfish or worldly spirit. We cannot but regard this fact as a striking and unequivocal token of the Divine favour, and, at the same time, as involving a heavy responsibility, and as conveying a loud call to the Church to put her Educational Institutions on the most efficient footing, and maintain them in full vigour, that she may follow out fully the course which her gracious Head seems clearly pointing out for her, and in which He is so manifestly beckoning her to advance. Who that loves Zion, would not earnestly and in deep solemnity of spirit, deprecate any relaxation of our efforts in this great and central department of our work, and bewail it as deeply dishonourable to our gracious Master, and involving a heinous degree of guilt, nay, as in effect, a writing of Ichabod on our Church, that she should fail by her prayers and her offerings, fully and generously to sustain this work.

Of the fifty Students who, as has been said, were in all admitted, twenty-seven have entered on the Theological curriculum, twenty-three remaining in the preparatory department, having made very various degrees of progress in their education—four of this latter division having had no previous classical training when they presented themselves to the Committee, were simply admitted to the classes in the Academy, directing their attention to the English and Latin languages, and to History, Chronology, Geography, and Mathematics—while the remaining nineteen were found to have made such progress in Latin and Greek, and in other preliminary branches, as to fit them for admission either into the class for Mental Training, conducted by Professor Lyall, or into the Moral Philosophy class, under Professor Eason—their attention being still, to a considerable extent, engaged in the preliminary studies—Classical, Mathematical, and Historical.

The Divinity Students were divided into two classes—the first, or junior, being composed of those who were just entering on the Theological course, and who numbered seven—the remaining twenty having arrived at various stages of progress in the curriculum, which it is not necessary more particularly to specify here. It may be proper, however, to intimate, that in so far as the matter, which depends on the continued progress and prospective attainments of the parties, can now be judged of, there is every reason to expect that six or seven of this senior class will be qualified to enter on trials for Licence at the close of the ensuing Session, in addition to the four whose names have been already communicated to Pres-

byteries as having completed a satisfactory curriculum of Theological study, both as to time and general attainments, but who, not having delivered all their curriculum discourses, will be required to attend at least some part of the ensuing Session. It is already known to Presbyteries, by the extract of the minutes of the Professors' Court just referred to, that six Students were found qualified to become candidates for Licence at the close of last Session, and they have been certified to Presbyteries accordingly. Thus, in the fifth year of Knox's College, the fruits of it begin to develop themselves, and there seems every reason to hope, that, under the blessing of the Lord, richer and riper fruit will continue to be gathered from it in successive years, to the refreshment and growth of the Church in these lands. Before closing this part of the Report, it may be proper to describe somewhat more minutely the Educational work of the Institution, and the studies prosecuted during the past Session.

For the Students who were admitted to the College proper, there were in all 17 classes opened, viz: 3 for Latin and 3 for Greek, each 2 hours in the week; 2 for Hebrew, 3 hours each; besides a private class for Syriac, 1 hour per week; 1 class for Mental Training or Logic and Rhetoric, 4 hours per week; 1 for Moral Philosophy, 5 hours a week; 1 for General History, with Chronology and Geography, 6 hours; 1 for Biblical Criticism, 2 hours; 1 for Ecclesiastical History, 2 hours; 2 classes for Divinity, 4 hours and 3 hours a week—besides 2 hours weekly—one being devoted to Pastoral Theology, and the other to Pulpit Scripture Readings.

The junior Latin and the junior Greek classes, were conducted by Mr. Gale, besides some lessons in Elocution, and a course of instruction in Latin composition not enumerated among the foregoing classes, in addition to his duties in the Academy. The 2nd Latin and the 2nd and 3rd Greek classes were conducted by Mr. Eason, who also conducted the General History, Chronology, and Geography classes, the Moral Philosophy class, and in addition, a class for Bible Training, 2 hours a week. The Mental Training or Logic and Rhetoric by Mr. Lyall, and the 3rd Latin; he also conducted the 2nd Greek class for a part of the Session. The Hebrew classes, and that for Biblical criticism, by Mr. Rintoul. The Church History by Dr. Burns, and the Divinity classes and that for Pulpit Readings, by Dr. Willis.

It will also be satisfactory to the Synod to have the testimony of the parties more immediately engaged in the work of Instruction, both as to the course of study in its leading departments, and as to the spirit and deportment and proficiency of the Students. This the Committee is enabled to submit, having, on request, been furnished with the following statements of the Professors, respecting the principal classes.

[These may be given in a subsequent number of the Record.]

In connection with these statements, as to the practical working of the Institution, the Committee deem it incumbent on them to press on the attention of the Synod the importance of now laying down in detail, and fixing authoritatively, some well considered and some well defined outline of the course of study to be pursued in Knox's College, and of establishing a standard of attainment to be required of Students, in order to their admission as Students, and to enable them to pass from one stage of the course to another. It was perhaps hardly practicable to have done so at an earlier stage in the progress of our still infant Institution; and although the want of such fixed arrangements, with no small degree of inconvenience and disadvantage to all the parties more immediately concerned, yet it is the less to be regretted, inasmuch as the tentative processes which have been going on during the past Sessions, and the actual experience which has been acquired of the difficulties to be surmounted, and of the evils to be eschewed

or obviated, will supply the best possible suggestions and directions for judicious and permanent legislation on the subject, at the stage we have now reached. But this, as well as the other matters of vital importance connected with the constitution and administration of the College, will be brought under the notice of the Synod in a separate document. It is therefore only necessary to advert to them here, and to indicate the importance which the Committee attaches to them, and the urgent necessity that exists for their immediate determination. Time and experience, and the rapidly changing circumstances of the Province and of the Church, will no doubt demand material modifications of any present plans, however carefully arranged they may be; and this consideration may well dictate caution, especially in regard to the form of any charter or incorporating act that may be sought from the civil authorities. But there is nothing in all this to require or justify further delay of the measures referred to; and the Committee would reiterate their conviction, that to allow the Institution to remain any longer in the present provisional and undefined footing, would prove most injurious to its efficiency, if not perilous in the extreme.

In disposing of these important matters, the Synod will no doubt see it to be necessary to examine the general character and provisions of the statute which has been recently passed by the Provincial Legislature for modifying the charter of King's College, in order to ascertain how far we may avail ourselves of the Educational advantages presented by that Public Institute for the benefit of our Students and for lightening the burden of the Church. And it may be regarded as a happy circumstance, that we are no longer called upon to decide on the form and extent of our own Educational provision, in uncertainty as to the precise character which the Provincial University would assume. The decisions of the Synod on these subjects will also involve a careful reference to the subordinate Educational Institutions throughout the country, as to their adaptation and general acceptability to the classes of young men from which we may expect our Theological classes principally to derive their Students.

In forming a true estimate both of the Provincial University, and of the subordinate Schools of the country, as available for our purposes, it is of the utmost importance that the Synod do not satisfy themselves with a mere reference to, or judgment of the general efficiency of these Institutions. They may be efficient for the general purposes of the community, and yet very imperfectly adapted to the character and circumstances of the great majority of those who are likely to become candidates for admission to our Theological course, and incapable of affording them some of the most important advantages for the peculiar preliminary training they require. It need hardly be remarked, that the religious element which is so vitally influential for youth, intellectually and morally, in all education, and so pre-eminently indispensable at all stages, in the training of those who are looking forward to the work of the ministry, does not vigorously prevail, and is not, we fear, likely to do so in the general educational institutions of the country, either elementary or other—a defect which, so far as it exists, renders it most desirable that our Students should, if possible, be placed under more favourable training from the very commencement of their Literary and Philosophical Education. But, besides this consideration, it must be borne in mind, that the bulk of our Students, hitherto, has been made up of young men advanced beyond the years and thoughtlessness of boyhood, whose hearts the Lord has touched and animated, with a desire to dedicate themselves to His own immediate service in the Gospel; and who, defective as they may be in the most elementary branches, yet, bringing with them to their work a maturity of mind and ardour of spirit, which find no very suitable place, nor any adequate encouragement and scope in ordinary schools, however well adapted to their purpose—