

In reference to the prevalence of illness among the students, the only suggestion I can offer, in addition to what is implied in relieving them somewhat from the pressure of dispiriting anxiety and exhausting toil, is that the time of commencing the Hall—the month of August, certainly the most unhealthy one of the year—should be changed to some time more conducive to health and more favorable to study.

Hoping that all interested in the welfare of our Zion may make the school of the prophets a subject of careful consideration, and do something for its support.

I am, &c.

X.

Reviews of Books.

A SUFFICIENT MAINTENANCE AND AN EFFICIENT MINISTRY.—BY THE REV. THOMAS GUTHRIE, D.D.—8vo. pp. 31. *T. Constable & Co. Edinburgh, 1852.*

It is always a pleasure to us to introduce to our readers anything from the able, honest, racy, hearty, author of this Sermon; and the task is generally an easy one. It is, in fact, the work, not so much of the pen, as of the scissors; and these may be pretty freely applied and almost at random. The discourse before us was delivered at an ordination of Deacons, which naturally led the preacher to speak of that department of ecclesiastical duty which is specially assigned to them—namely, the financial. On this topic most ministers feel it disagreeable to enter. Dr. G., however, says, at the outset, "I do not feel that the introduction of this matter to the pulpit needs any apology. The only apology I need to make—the only fault which I have to confess—is that you have heard from me, so little on so great a duty." He also adverts to two considerations which relieve him from all delicacy. One is, that he is independent of the sustentation fund for which he pleads; the other is that he has been urged by his people to stir them up to their duty on the point in hand. Now these advantages have, doubtless, been secured without preaching directly about stipend, and always crying money, money. But we venture to say that they are the result of much excellent preaching, in which it is incessantly, forcibly, and solemnly, inculcated on the hearers that they are not their own, but bought with a price—that they themselves and all that is theirs, their bodies and their spirits, their talents, their influence, their time and their substance belong to Him who gave himself for them an offering and a sacrifice unto God. So every man must preach who would be in Dr. Guthrie's comfortable position. But let us hear himself,—

"The first respect in which I feel myself standing in happy circumstances is this, that I have not taken up this subject altogether at my own choice. I have been solicited to do so; and by whom? By those who get from the fund? No. Many of these, I believe, are patiently and submissively bearing, no common hardships; but theirs, though severe, are silent sufferings. It is those who give, not those who get, who have urged me to embrace the opportunity, which the ordination of Deacons offers, for addressing you on the support of a Christian ministry. I regard this circumstance as an omen for good, as indicating not only a desire that more should be done, but a determination that more shall be done. What may we not anticipate, what harvests may we not expect to reap, when, so to speak, the soil itself opens for the seed, and as in summer drought thirsts and gapes for rain: when the minister goes not to his people urging them, but they, taking the initiative, taking the matter into their own hands, come and urge him to stir them, and their neighbours up to more generous efforts in the cause of Christ?"