

Theology, and the man who has his quiver filled with weapons drawn from that armory, is well equipped for warfare against the armies of the aliens. Desirable as it is to be acquainted with modern Theological writers, yet the old seem to have pushed their enquiries to the full limits of the powers of the human mind, and often times the productions of modern orthodox writers, are but a sort of *detritus* of their writings, while the ingenuity of modern errorists has scarcely forged any new weapons of assault upon divine truth. The Marrowmen and Secession fathers, who have been called "the only distinctive school of Theology that Scotland has produced," exhibit in substance the same system, though slightly modified in the mode of its presentation. With the views of these writers, Dr. Keir's acquaintance was both accurate and extensive. We may here remark, that so far as his Theology was formed from any human writings, it might be said to have been moulded by the authors referred to. His Theology was that of Owen and the Secession fathers. While we say this, we must however remark, that after all his Theology was essential Biblical. His views were drawn directly from the great fountain of divine truth, and all his expositions of doctrines were distinguished by their fulness of scripture reference. He was indeed a man "mighty in the scriptures." In his preaching too he had treated the great doctrines of the gospel systematically, and had a course of sermons, which presented nearly a complete system of Theology. Thus he was equipped for the duties of the office in a manner, which amply justified the synod's choice.

Having with some reluctance accepted the office, he entered upon its duties with great diligence. He devoted his attention to such reading, as would enable him to keep abreast of the Christian Literature of the age; and he extended the sermons referred to into a full course of lectures on Theology, of which a synopsis has been published for the use of his students. In many Institutions at the present day, from the number of excellent systems of Theology already before the public, it is not considered the most efficient mode of teaching Theology, for the Professor to prepare a full course of lectures of his own. It is believed that the work may be done as thoroughly by examination of the students on one of the standard systems, such as Dick's, and by supplementary lectures on particular subjects, that may require special consideration. Dr. Keir had been accustomed to the other mode, and his course of lectures will afford the best evidence of his assiduity. It was not our privilege to hear his lectures as written out, nor can we speak of their contents from personal knowledge of them otherwise. But from what we have heard we believe that they afford most creditable evidence not only of the soundness of his views, but also of the extent of his Theological attainments.

For a few years after his appointment, the Hall met in his house, and the students, who were then few in number, boarded with his family. It is only of this period, that we can speak from our own experience, and we believe that we express the feeling of those, not a numerous body, who attended at that time, when we say that we reckon the few weeks spent annually with him in this way as not only among the most pleasant, but also as among the most valuable, for our Christian progress and ministerial usefulness, of our past