

ssembly, composed of representatives from each General Synod, who should possess no judicial authority, except in a very few cases, specially entrusted to them, and essential to general unity and order. Among these cases we might enumerate the superintendence of all theological colleges; the framing of laws connected with the admission of candidates for the ministry; the right of deciding in all cases of heresy; and the management of foreign missionary operations. Were the whole ordinary discipline of the Church thus confined to Presbyteries, Synods, and General Synods, within the respective States, the disturbing questions arising from particular local institutions, would be, in a great measure, avoided; and an Assembly, with definite power to legislate in the instances above stated, might be able to preserve a due degree of union and conformity, and regulate the general and combined operations of the Church.

For the reasons already stated, we did not return to the Assembly on the following day, but employed ourselves in visiting several literary institutions within the city, and, among the rest, the Western Theological Seminary. It occupies a conspicuous position on the summit of a steep hill, of an elevation to try one's breath in scaling it, and commands a beautiful view of the Monongahela and Alleghany rivers, and of their junction into the far-flowing Ohio. The building is too small, its architecture too humble, for the elevated site it occupies. Although a recent erection, it seems as if it were already falling into decay. The interior, so far as it was revealed to us, does not contain one decently finished apartment; the greater part is unfinished, unfurnished, and ruinous. The library, indeed, is a large and lofty room, containing a pretty extensive collection of books, many of

them donations from Britain, but little care seemed to be bestowed on their arrangement and keeping. The number of students did not much exceed twenty: it being vacation time, most or all of them were absent. Only one professor resided within the building, a young man, who conducted us through it, and showed us much friendly attention. He attributed its present low state to the division by which the Church was rent, and despaired of seeing better days until that was healed. The Seminary is unendowed; has only three professors; and were we to judge of the state of literature and theology from the means provided here for advancing them, our judgment would be very unfavourable. An American college of this class, would hardly take the precedence of a grammar school in Scotland.

Independent of the particular and occasional evils to which the present low state of this college was attributed by Professor N—, other inauspicious influences, of a more incurable nature, may be discovered, blighting the hopes of literary institutions in general, in this country. Learning cannot be expected to flourish vigorously in a community, in which no prizes, no honours, no recompense are awarded to it. In the United States it cannot raise its possessor to political power or office. It would rather disqualify him for complying with the humours of "the fierce democracy," on whose voice every public office depends. Of what avail it may be in the professions of law and medicine, we cannot say; but the Church furnishes a melancholy picture of the rewards of learning within her domain. This will serve to explain the fact universally admitted, that candidates for the sacred ministry, are with the utmost difficulty obtained, notwith-