

regard to their theories the ancient philosophers often gave vent to a feeling of dissatisfaction, but generally were well satisfied with them. And any prudent enquirer will hesitate before he pronounces any of their conclusions to be trifling. The Platonic philosophy long held dominion over the minds of speculative enquirers, and the study of it is important, as the student of church history knows, that it has long influenced opinion in the church, because it is the origin of many of the views propounded by German Philosophers in the present day as new and important discoveries, and because Plato, of all the ancient philosophers, seemed to approach the nearest to the pure, spiritual principles of the Christian faith.

The lecturer then gave a short account of his life. His original name was Aristocles.—He was born B. C. 429, and thus flourished during the era of the Peloponnesian war. He received the best education of the time. He wrote Epic poetry, tragedy, and epigrams.—Of all his teachers Socrates seemed to exercise the greatest influence over him. He also visited Euclid and travelled to other countries. On his return he established an academy, the far-famed grove of Academus.

The lecturer then gave a review of his teaching in regard to Psychology, Cosmogony, Government, and Theology. In regard to government he remarked that in his writings on this subject might be found the origin of the principles of St. Simon and the Fourierists of France and the Socialists of Britain. In regard to theology he remarked that he held the doctrines of unity of God, the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments. We regret that we cannot give a fuller view of the lecture on these and other topics. We can only say that it was in every respect highly creditable to the learned lecturer.

At the time we write 11 students are forward, and a few more are expected.

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Presbytery of Halifax met at Middle Masquodobit on the 3d inst. for Presbyterial visitation, and on the day following for the same purpose, at the Upper Settlement.—Rev J. McLean and Rev J. Cameron preached suitable discourses. The audience on the first day was large, on the second more limited, as the day was stormy. The results of the Presby-

terial inquiry were in both cases substantially the same. The questions asked were promptly and satisfactorily answered, and showed clearly that the congregation was in a sound and progressive state. It was evident that the pastor laboured in the Word and doctrine, and that all the functions of the pastoral office were faithfully and efficiently discharged.

Mr Sedgwick is aided in his work by a large staff of elders, who in point of intelligence, piety, and attention to the duties of their office, will bear a comparison with any similar body of office bearers in the connection. The congregation is divided into districts, each district having its own elder, and in most cases its Sabbath School (in summer) and Prayer Meeting. Each district has also its representative in the Managing Committee and its collector. As might be anticipated, where the whole spiritual machinery is so complete, and works so harmoniously, the managers were able to report that the salary of £150 per annum (besides the use of the Manse built within the last few years for Mr Sedgwick) was punctually paid every quarter. It is well known that the congregation have given the pastor during the past year other substantial tokens of their regard.

The members of Presbytery expressed their satisfaction at this happy state of affairs, shewed that all parties had much cause for gratitude to God, pointed out the obligations of a people so situated to make progress in all good works, and exhorted the different office-bearers to humility, diligence and constancy.

The Presbytery having entered on the consideration of the recommendation of the Committees of the three Presbyterian bodies in references to the providing of a supply of preaching for workmen on the Railway found that Rev Mr Cameron had preached at Grand Lake on the last Sabbath of Feb'y and Rev J. McLean on the first Sabbath of March. It was then agreed that during March and April a day each should be given by the Rev Messrs, Sedgwick, McGregor, Cameron, and McLean, and that application be made to the Board of Home Missions for a preacher to be specially designated to this work, and to labour along the whole line wherever an opportunity of usefulness can be found during the months of May, June, and the first half of July.