

*From the Rev. WALTER MCGILVRAY, D. D., Minister of
St. Mark's Free Church, Glasgow.*

In the course of a visit to Canada, in the years 1847-48, as a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, I had an opportunity of visiting Knox's College at Toronto, and of seeing the mode in which that most useful institution was conducted. As a proof of the superior qualifications of the Professors, I was struck with the fact, that the students, as a body, would not only stand a comparison, in point of scholarship and general attainments, with those attending our Scottish Universities, but in certain branches they seemed to me to have decidedly the advantage of the latter. I was greatly pleased, though not at all surprised, at the proficiency of the students under the care of my respected friend, Professor Esson. Of his classical acquirements and thorough acquaintance with the various departments of Mental and Moral Philosophy, I was previously aware; but I was hardly prepared for the display of *practical skill* in the way of communicating his ample stores of instruction to the young men under his charge, which I had the pleasure of witnessing. In aptness to teach—in the power of interesting and stimulating the minds of the students—in that kindly sway over the heart, which opens up the best and readiest access to the head, I have seldom seen so signal an example as in the case of my reverend friend. I have reason to know that my impression in regard to Mr. Esson's qualifications and great success as a teacher of youth, was shared by *all* the Deputies of our Church, who had the privilege of visiting Knox's College. It is hardly necessary for me to refer to the consistent excellence of his Christian character, distinguished as it is by all that is just, honest, lovely, and of good report. In fine, I would consider it a great blessing to any Educational Institution to have the benefit of the labours, skill, affection, faithfulness, and prayers, of such an experienced and distinguished instructor.

Given at Glasgow, this 14th day of November, 1851.