

[No. II.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

The Committee on Theological Education, beg respectfully to report as follows: The Session of the Divinity Hall commenced on Tuesday, 19th October. All the members were present. The Rev. the Moderator of Synod occupied the chair. After singing and reading the Scriptures, prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Thornton. An address was given from the chair. The Rev. Dr. Taylor read his Introductory Lecture. The Rev. Mr. Ormiston delivered an address; and the Rev. Dr. Burns of Knox College, at the request of the chairman, concluded with prayer. Fourteen students entered the Hall, viz: of the fourth year, Messrs. William Donald, Robert Hall, Robert Hume, B. A., and William McWilliam.—Of the third year, Messrs. James Hanran, George Irving, John Turnbull, and Joseph White.—Of the second year, Messrs. Peter Goodfellow, and James Milligan.—Of the first year, Messrs. Alexander McNaughton, James Malcolm, William Thomson Murdoch, and William Richardson. The students who attended the preceding Session, and had not completed their course, were absent from the Hall last Session; and the Committee have learnt that one of them has connected himself with another denomination.

The Sub-Committee for Examination have given in the following Report:

"Toronto, 30th Nov., 1858.—The Examiners met,—The Rev. R. H. Thornton in the chair,—and proceeded to estimate the Examination Papers given in by the students. These Papers had been written, as usual, at meetings held for the purpose, when the questions were simultaneously proposed. Dr. Taylor stated that one of the students on account of severe domestic affliction, had not been able to attend all these meetings, but had afterwards written his papers in Dr. Taylor's house, all the conditions being observed as strictly as possible. The Examiners, while deeming it of importance that the regulations should be rigidly adhered to, agreed, in the circumstances stated, to accept of these papers. After careful consideration, it was resolved to arrange the students in the following order of merit, viz: Of the fourth year, Mr. McWilliam, Messrs. Donald and Hume who are bracketed, Mr. Hall.—Of the third year, Messrs. Hanran and Turnbull, who are bracketed, Mr. White, Mr. Irving.—Of the second year, Mr. Milligan, Mr. Goodfellow.—Of the first year, Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Richardson, Mr. McNaughton. Those bracketed are regarded as so nearly equal, that no attempt is made to distinguish them. Of the fourteen students, eleven applied for Exhibitions, and £10 was awarded to each. The Examiners found a great diversity of merit among the students. Some exhibited highly commendable attainments, others fell considerably short; and though the Examiners still refrain from taking any step affecting the standing of any of the students, they must express their sense of the importance of respectable proficiency being aimed at, and attained, by all who mean to apply for license in our church.

(Signed),

"R. H. THORNTON, *Chairman.*"

The Committee beg to say, that, while they entertain no doubt that the examinations were judiciously and faithfully conducted, and that correct results were obtained, it is proper to be kept in mind that the attainments of the students, at the time of their admission, differed very widely; that some students, on account of constitutional peculiarities, and from habit, fail to do themselves justice under examination; that the range of subjects for examination is wide, and that the Examiners found their estimate on a consideration of the aggregate whole, so that students who stand low, may have acquitted themselves creditably in particular departments, and may, perhaps, prove popular and useful preachers, though certainly it is, in many points of view, exceedingly important that only men of respectable acquirements should be licensed for the ministry.

The balance in favour of the Fund for aiding and encouraging students in Divinity, at last report, was £125 15s., which with interest at six per cent for ten

months, amount remained £23 17s 6d.; and of Har Sandilands, has re-paid in all £73 £25 3s 6d. individuals the honour regard those be observed paid by income rather too probably be to adopt the deem it of may be exp very likely

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