

THE
Knox College Monthly
AND
PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

VOL. XIII.

DECEMBER, 1890.

No. 2.

THE PELAGIANISM OF MODERN THEOLOGY.

NO lack of respect for Dr. MacMullen has delayed the answer to his genial criticism of "Scholasticism in Modern Theology." Other thoughts, cares, and even sorrows have come in to occupy the writer's mind. Apart from his scholarly attainments and his position as an ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. MacMullen is entitled to the consideration due to one who, while differing in opinion, differs with gentlemanly courtesy. There is great hope for theology where such a spirit prevails.

The learned doctor appears to sympathize with at least some statements in the article he criticizes, and, with indications from several other quarters, leads the writer to hope that his aim, which was to stimulate thought on theological questions, has been partly realized. As a friendly critic he has confined himself to two points: a defence of Systematic Theology on the authority of Dr. Chalmers, and an indication that the term Total Depravity is a variable quantity. The first deserves a glance, the second a more extensive survey.

In what theological school in our Dominion or in the United States is Chalmers' Institutes of Theology a text book? Is that work not utterly displaced by Hodge and Shedd, Hill and Dick, Calvin and Francis Turretine, with other minor systems of lesser