

Macdonald's letter, and to ask the present generation of students, and also those who in former years were active members of the Literary Society, to give to this proposal due consideration, that, if possible, something may be done to make the Society more efficient, more productive of good to the members, and a greater source of strength to the College.

For myself I wish to say that, throughout my whole college course, I was an active and sympathetic member of the Society, and was often one of the very few who were usually on hand to form the quorum. I know how often even the truest and most loyal friends despaired of making the ordinary meetings sufficiently remunerative in benefit and instruction to warrant regular attendance. I have a clear recollection of the changes in the constitution which, like the specialties at a fair, were intended to add interest to the meetings, and give to the association a new lease of life. But on reviewing the whole question from the vantage-ground of after-life, I can see that, while the time spent at these weekly meetings was not altogether wasted, it was not as well spent as it might have been, nor as it should have been by a student for the ministry. And I can see, as was pointed out in the open letter referred to, that the weakness of the Society was not so much one of administration as of organization. As one who knew something of the patient and unwearied faithfulness of several committees, I can say that, under the circumstances, the Society could scarcely have been more efficiently managed. With the restrictions of the constitution no committee could give to the ordinary meetings of the Society a fresh and interesting programme every week, such as would attract serious students of theology. The range of subjects for discussion was very narrow, as a glance over the records of the Society will show, and these subjects were for the most part of almost no interest to the members, except as offering a little scope for mental gymnastics. Debates were arranged and carried on, not because there was truth to be ascertained, or because strong convictions were held on the subject, but for the sake of practice in debate, or for the still baser purpose of killing time. Experience has convinced me that Mr. Macdonald was true to facts in finding the cause of failure, as far as there has been failure, in the professed aim and constitution of the Society.

The earlier members will remember the organization of the Society many years ago, supplanting, as it did, the two societies, the Literary and the Philosophical (I think these were the names), which for several years previous had existed. That the Knox College society was fashioned after the pattern of the Literary and Scientific Society of University