seems to be incident to all exclusive bodies. In 1619 Bishop Forbes obtained a commission of visitation, by which the abuses that had gradually been engendered were reformed, and the original foundation, with some exceptions, restored. By the in­troduction of the reformed religion, some of the offices were ren­dered unnecessary ; and accordingly the General Assembly, in 1639, ordered those of the canonist and cantor to be abolished. After the abolition of episcopacy, Charles I. resolved to apply part of the revenues of the different sees to the support of the universities, and appointed a commission to inquire into the state of those of Old and New Aberdeen ; the result of which was his executing a charter, uniting them as one university, under the name of King Charles’s University of Aberdeen.” The colleges however continued distinct, and are separately recognised in the act of 1641, by which the grant of the rents of the bishopric of Aber­deen was ratified ; nor do they appear ever to have acted together as one university. Bishop Elphinstone's seminary has since re­tained the name of King’s College. Another attempt to form both into one university was made about the year 1784, which after long negociation and discussion was abandoned ; and a simi­lar result is likely to attend the labours of the commission ap­pointed in 1836 and 1837.

From the period of its institution down to the earlier part of the last century, various improvements were introduced by royal and parliamentary commissions. The General Assembly also ex­tended its jurisdiction to the college; and the chancellor of the uni­versity and the ordinary visitors appear to have watched over its interests. In what manner the rector and his assessors were elected, and how frequently their visitations took place, are unknown for a period of 129 years after the institution of the college. Subse­quently this court appears to have been efficient, and to have been instrumental, in several instances, in giving effect to improved plans of education. The senate, consisting of the regu­ar officers of the college, likewise applied themselves to the same laudable object, and from time to time introduced such al­terations as a change of circumstances or the advancement of knowledge rendered necessary. About the year 1620 a professor­ship of divinity was instituted by the college, and was confirmed two years after by royal charter. Weekly discourses on ca­techetical doctrine were established ; and in 1764 a professorship of oriental languages was founded, for which an endowment out of the bishops’ rents was afterwards obtained. In 1753 the teach­ing of the elements of Latin was abolished, and the scholarship of the class raised to the standard of the other universities. In the same year, the senate, taking into consideration the whole state of the college, approved of certain statutes intended to regulate the length of the session, the management of the bursaries, and the plan of instruction. On this last head, after mature deliberation, it was determined, chiefly, it is alleged, through the influence of the celebrated Dr Reid, who was at that time one of the regents, that the old system of the same regent conducting the students through the whole course should be continued, as at once more beneficial to the students, and more advantageous to the cause of literature and science. And it is a curious fact, that the system thus sanctioned by high authority prevailed till the year 1800, when the practice of the other universities was here introduced.

The university and college at present consist of a chancellor, rector, principal, sub-principal, and nine professors; the office of sub-principal being always held by one of the professors. The college contains the four faculties, and, as at St Andrews and Glasgow, the senate, besides managing the business of the col­lege, and administering the revenues, exercises the patronage of certain academical offices. The chancellor and rector are appointed by the senate. The office of the rector is annual : his four assessors, who constitute his court, are elected by the se­nate at the same time with himself. The *procuratores gentium* are called into existence only for the purpose of assisting in the election of certain office-bearers, and are then appointed by the senate. The office of dean of faculty has also fallen into desue­tude, excepting in the case of a vacancy in the professorship of divinity, when a dean of the faculty of divinity is chosen by the senate, he being by the charter nominated one of the electors. The principal and sub-principal are elected by the rector, procu­rators, and professors, and admitted by the chancellor. The principal presides in the meetings of the college, but has long ceased to take any part in academical instruction. The sub-principal presides in the meetings of the faculty of arts, and, in the absence of the principal, in the meetings of the senate, and col­lects the fines imposed on the students for any breach of discipline.

The Revenue of the college arises from certain properties ac­quired under the foundation charters, from others obtained subse­quent to the dates of these charters, and from royal grants. A great part, of the original grants consisted of tithes, which, being subject to the burden of supporting the parochial clergy, have been much diminished. The total nett revenue for 1836 amounted to L.2364, the royal grants being L.1148. 6s. 8d. King’s College possesses thirty-two foundations for bursaries, the benefit of which is ex­tended to 134 students. Their aggregate value amounts to L.1771∙ 13s. 10d., and they vary from L.50 to L.5 and under. About eighty of these are open to public competition. The bur­sars are required to attend the junior humanity and Greek classes during the first session, and at the commencement of the follow­ing session are examined as to the proficiency which they have made in these languages during the vacation. They are also admitted to all the classes on the payment of modified fees in proportion to the amount of their bursaries.

The Session commences on the first Monday of November, the previous week being employed in deciding, by comparative trial, the vacant bursaries in the gift of the college, and in ascertaining the attainments of the bursars presented by private patrons. It terminates at the end of twenty-one weeks. It has long ceased to be the practice of the students to live within the walls of the col­lege; and the discipline of the professors is therefore chiefly con­fined to the class room. Strict attendance is enforced, and various methods are adopted to fix the attention of the students on the subjects of study. The regular fees exigible from the students who do not hold bursaries are, for the classes of Greek, mathema­tics, moral and natural philosophy, L.3. 3s. ; first humanity and second Greek classes, 10s. ; second humanity class, 15s. ; chemistry and natural history, L. 1.1 ls. 6d. ; oriental languages, L. 1. 1 1s. 6d. ; civil law, L.1. ls. These fees are modified, in the case of bursars, in proportion to the amount of the bursaries. An academical dress is prescribed by the charter of foundation, and is still imperative on all students except those of medicine and divinity. The stu­dents are required to attend the college chapel ; but a dispensation is granted to all who produce a written request from their parents or guardians.

The number of students in 1889-40 was 350;@@\* Graduates in arts, 3C; in divinity, 1 ; in law, 2; in medicine, 8.

The following table contains a list of the professorships, with the date of their foundation, the patronage, and total emoluments of the professors, for the year 1838.@@s

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Office. | Founded. | Emoluments. | | | Patrone. |
| Principal | 1505 | *L.*  300 | *s.*  8 | *d.*  7 | Rector, procuratores gentium, professors. |
| Professorship of Greek | 1505 | 474 | 3 | 8 | Rector, procumtores gentium, senate. |
| Humanity [chemistry and natural history]. | 1505 | 450 | 9 | 6 | Rcctur, procuratores gentium, senate. |
| Mathematics | 1505 | 355 | 6 | 1 | Senate. |
| Natural philosophy | 1505 | 380 | 12 | 1 | Senate. |
| Moral philosophy | 1505 | 377 | 18 | 0 | Senate. |
| Medicine ............................... | 1505 | 211 | 7 | 3 | Rector, procuratores gentium, senate. |
| Civil law | 1505 | 214 | 9 | 3 | Hector, procuratores gentium, senate. |
|  |  |
| Divinity | 1620 | 425 | 8 | 10 | Synod of Aberdeen, principal, dean of faculty of divinity. |
|  |
| Oriental languages | 1674 | 242 | 11 | 0 | Crown. |

The principal, sub-principal, with the professors of humanity, mathematics, natural and moral philosophy, and divinity, have, be­sides, bouses and gardens.

Besides the professors, lecturers have been established in con­nection with the college, who teach the following branches: prac­tical religion, evidences and principles of the Christian religion.

@@@, The students of divinity, who amounted to 91, and a few of the students of medicine, were common to King’s and to Marischal College.

@@@S Report of the Royal Commissioners, printed in 1838, p. 71.