constitution which the college possesses, deserves particular notice. After detailing the establishment of the college, and the purposes for which it was instituted, the grants made for carrying these into effect, the expense incurred by the city in erecting the buildings, and various bequests made by well- disposed persons for the support of the professors, the act de­clares the anxious desire of the king for the increase of learn­ing within the borough, his willingness to confirm the former grants made to the college, and to extend to it all the im­munities enjoyed by any other college within the realm, and ratifies and approves the infeftments previously granted by his majesty under his great seal, “ togidder with the erection of the said gryit ludging, manss, and hous of the Kirk-of- Feild, in ane colledge for professioun of theologie, philo­sophie, and humanitie.” The ratification concludes by de­claring that the college shall “ in all tyme to cum be callit King James Colledge,” and conferring on the magistrates as patrons, and the rectors, regents, bursars, and students, “ all liberties, fredoms, immunities, and priviledges, appertening to ane free colledge, and that in als ample forme and lairge maner as any colledge hes or bruikis within this his ma- jestie’s realme.” It is true that the term *university* is not ap­plied to the seminary, either in this act or in the royal charter of 1582 ; but the clause which has just been quoted confers upon it all the powers and privileges of a university, and these necessarily involve the name.

From the first institution of the college, the town council, with the advice of the ministers and some eminent lawyers, regulated the mode of teaching, the discipline, the fees, and the accommodation of the students. Students were admitted on application to a magistrate, under whose authority they were enrolled ; as in other universities, they were matricu­lated by the rector or principal. It was the intention of the founders that all the students should lodge within the walls of the college, and wear an academical dress. The annual rent of a chamber to a stranger student, having a bed to himself, was L.4 Scots ; for which sum the town furnished seats, beds, tables, and shelves. Students whose parents were burgesses paid no rent, but furnished the rooms at their own expense. The increase of numbers gradually put a stop to this practice. So lately, however, as the year 1710, the English dissenters offered to contribute L.1000 a year, for the support of a *hospitium,* on condition that their students might participate in the benefit.@@1

The system of instruction originally pursued in the university did not differ materially from that of the other Scotish universities. Each of the four regents conducted his students, during the four years they remained under his care, over the entire curriculum of literature and philosophy, while the prelections of the principal were confined to theology. The following interesting account of the course of study and early discipline is given by Principal Lee.@@i “During the first year, about six months were spent chiefly in the study of the Greek and Roman classics, accompanied by fre. quent exercises in translation and original composition. The remainder of the session was occupied in the study of the Dialectics of Ramus, without however discontinuing the reading of Greek and Latin authors, and committing to memory and reciting large portions of the ancient poets and orators. In the second year, be­sides being exercised in Greek themes and versions, the students proceeded in the study of logic, rhetoric, and some part of mathema­tics. The philosophical works of Aristotle were not neglected ; and in the later months of the session, the practice of oratory was encouraged by public declamations. The third session, carrying for­ward the public studies and classical learning, introduced the youth to the knowledge of some branches of natural history and philo­sophy, and gave every one an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the elements of the Hebrew tongue. In the fourth session, ethics, physics, and metaphysics formed the principal object of study ; but great part of the time was occupied in the practice of disputation. The regent prescribed the subject, and every candi­date was matched with an antagonist, with whom it was necessary •or him to carry on a debate in presence of his teacher. The re­gents were required to exercise a habitual inspection of their charge, both in the public class and in the hours of recreation in the fields. The principal was bound to maintain a daily superin­tendence, presiding in the public devotions, and keeping a watchful eye over all the regents, students, and officers of the establish­ment, so that, when admonition or discipline was required, it might not be omitted or postponed till insubordination and irre­gularity became inveterate or scandalous Every Lord’s day was partly employed in the religious instruction of the students in their private classes, and chiefly in the public solemnities of divine worship.” This course of study, which must have obtained the sanction of the patrons, goes far to justify the powers which had been vested in them by the charter of erection ; and when carried into effect by the energy of the regents, readily accounts for the celebrity which the metropolitan university early acquired. The practice of each regent teaching the same class during the whole period of the course was discontinued in 1708, in consequence of a regulation by the parliamentary commission of visitation ap­pointed in 1690. Since that time every professor has been limited to one particular department.

“ The most striking circumstance,” say the royal commis­sioners,@@3 in the establishment of the university of Edinburgh, is, “ that it is not erected into an independent seminary, but is subjected, in all essentia) points, to the provost, magis­trates, and council of the city. To them is committed the superintendence of it, the appointment of the professors, and the privilege of removing them when so strong a step seemed expedient. The whole body is enjoined to obey the regulations emanating from the council ; and even the powers of the principal are limited by the same authority. In fact, to the college, as a college, nothing seems to be given but immunities and privileges common to the other universities, and which do not seem to have any reference to its internal administration. No senatus academicus, or college meeting, with special authority to regulate the course of education, is recognised. Every thing specified is granted with a view to the magistrates and council ; and in the only clause which may seem to imply that the college received a separate and independent jurisdiction, the mode in which it is introduced evinces that this could not have been the case.” Accordingly, the council have always claimed and exercised the privileges which are conferred on them by the charter.

The number of professors, which in 1620 was seven, in­cluding the principal, was raised in 1708 to fifteen, one of whom was professor of Greek, the study of that language being required of all students of arts after the reformation. The present number is thirty-three. The right of institut­ing new professorships is vested in the patrons ; and the promptitude which they have shown in adopting the best measures for the advancement of academical instruction is deserving of great credit. Some years ago the clergy of the city put forward their claim to a voice in the election of professors, on the ground that, in the original charter, the right of appointment was to be exercised *cum avisa- mento ministrorum.* The claim was for some time keenly agitated, and steps were taken to enforce it ; but on appli­cation being made to the Court of Session in the case of a particular election, the court refused to grant an interdict, and the question was accordingly dropped. Eleven profes­sorships have at various times been founded by the crown, of nine of which it has retained the patronage ; but the exercise of this power is disputed by the council, as an infringement of their sole right of control, and a protest is regularly taken that it shall not hurt or prejudge their rights. In the case of some of the professorships, certain public bodies have been admitted to a share of the patronage, in consequence of contributing a part of the salaries of the professors. The professor of botany holds two commissions, one from the crown, and another from the town council.

The right of the patrons to interfere in regulating the course of study was of late years disputed by the principal and professors, and the subject was brought before the

@@@1 Ed. Acad. An. pp. xvi. xvii.

@@@s Ibid. pp. xxviii-xxx.

@@@’ Report, pp. 99, 100.