interrupted, and in the year 1559 the faculty of arts were under the necessity of discontinuing the public exhibitions usual at gra> duation.@@1 Immediately after the establishment of the reforma­tion, the laws and practice of the university were accommodated to the change which had taken place in the religious establishment of the country ; but the mode of teaching, and the academical ex­ercises, so far as related to philosophy and the arts, continued nearly on their former footing. The students who entered a college at the same time, formed a class, and were placed under the superintendence and tuition of a regent, by whom their studies were conducted during the whole course. The regular time of the course was four years, but it was more usually finished in three years and a half. The session commenced on the first of October, and continued till the end of July, the months of August and September@@5 being allowed as a vacation. The regent assem­bled his class three hours every day, and read and explained to them the books of Aristotle, beginning with dialetics or logic, then advancing to ethics, next to physics, and concluding with metaphysics, which were considered the highest branch of philo­sophy, and mathematics, which included arithmetic. During their course the students were frequently exercised in disputations and declamations, both privately in their class, and publicly before the college and university. The principal frequently read lec­tures on the higher branches of philosophy, which were attended by all the students of the college.@@3

In the middle of the third year, the students who obtained from their regent and the principal of the college an attestation of re­gular attendance and good conduct, were allowed to propose them­selves as candidates for the degree of bachelor. In the presence of three regents, annually selected from each college as exami­ners, the candidates *determined* a question in logic or morals, and answered such questions as were proposed to them on any of the branches of study with which they had been occupied. Those who acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the examiners were confirmed *bachelors* by the dean, the rest were sent to a lower class. A similar form was observed in the act of laureation at the end of the course ; except that on this occasion the candidates were examined on the whole circle of the arts, and were required to de­fend a thesis which had been previously affixed to the gates of the different colleges. They were then divided into classes, and their names arranged according to merit, with a certain preference to persons of rank. When the examinations were concluded, the de­gree of master of arts was solemnly conferred by the chancellor, *in nomine Patris, Pitii, et Spiritus Sancti.* Certain fees were paid by the graduates, according to their rank, to the purser of the university and of the faculty, to the dean, and to other officers. Small annual fees seem originally to have been paid by the stu­dents to their regents.@@\*

Soon after the establishment of the reformation, the leaders of that great revolution proposed a scheme for new-model­ling the universities, which, though not adopted by the legis­lature, will remain a lasting monument of the enlightened and pa­triotic views of its compilers.@@6 After several other ineffectual at­tempts, a commission was appointed in 1579, on the petition of the General Assembly, with full powers to consider the founda­tions in the university of St Andrews, to alter the constitution and form of study, and to introduce such improvements as might appear necessary. The commissioners, finding that all the colleges had departed from their original foundations, agreed upon a new form of instruction, which was laid before the ensuing meeting of parliament, and ratified on the 11th of November 1579. St Salvator's College was to consist of a principal, and four pro­fessors or regents of humanity and philosophy. The first regent was to teach the Greek grammar, and to exercise the students in Latin composition during the first, and in Greek during the second half year. The second regent, who was also considered a professor of humanity, was to teach the principles of rhetoric, and the prac­tice of it as exemplified in the best Greek and Latin authors. This class was to spend an hour at least every day in composition ; and during the last half year the students were to declaim once a month in Greek and Latin alternately. It was the duty of the third regent to teach, in the original language, part of the Logic of Aristotle, with the Ethics and Politics ; and the Offices of Cicero in Latin. The fourth regent was to teach the necessary parts of the Physics, and the doctrine of the Sphere. Each regent was con­fined to his own department. Professors of mathematics and law were also established, who were to lecture at least four times every week ; and the principal of the college was to act as professor of medicine. Similar arrangements were made in St Leonard’s Col­lege ; with this difference, that no classes of mathematics and law were established in it, and the principal was to lecture on the philosophy of Plato. St Mary’s College was appropriated solely to the study of theology, and the languages connected with it. The course of study was to be completed in four years, under the instruction of a principal and four professors, each of the profes­sors having under his care only the students of one year. It embraced, in the first year, the elements of Hebrew, Chaldee, and Syriac ; during the next eighteen months, the same languages, with critical explanations of the Pentateuch and historical books of the Old Testament ; and during the remaining eighteen months, the prophetical books were examined in the same manner. Dur­ing the whole four years, the fourth professor was to explain the New Testament, by comparing the original with the Syrian version ; and the principal was to lecture on systematic divinity. The students were required to attend the lectures of three professors every day during the continuance of their theological course. Such was the form of instruction drawn up by Melville, and recom­mended by Buchanan, which has been well characterised by Dr M’Crie as “the most liberal and enlightened plan of study which had yet been established in any European university.”@@\* This des­tination of the colleges continued till 1621, when, by an act of the legislature, their original constitutions were restored, “ in all their heads, articles, and clauses,” so far as was consistent with the re­formed religion, with the single exception that St Mary's should be confined to the faculty of divinity. Professorships of mathe­matics and medicine were instituted in 1668 and 1721. We have not the means of ascertaining the precise number of students who belonged to the university at one lime. In ordinary cases it appears not to have exceeded 200, and it did not fall much short of that number during the latter half of the sixteenth century. Fewer had attended it during the first half, and still fewer previously to that period.@@7

The three colleges continued without further alteration till the year 1747. when, in consequence of the inadequacy of the provi. sion for the principals and professors of the two colleges of philo­sophy, a union of them was effected by parliamentary enactment, which enabled them to consolidate their endowments, and to make provision for a more extended course of instruction. By this statute the United College of St Salvator and St Leonard was to consist of a principal, a professor of Greek, three professors of phi­losophy, professors of humanity, civil history, mathematics, and medicine, and sixteen bursars on the original foundations. The same statute regulates the patronage of the professorships and bur­saries, and makes provision for the disposal of the funds of the col­lege. No change has since taken place in the constitution of the colleges, none of the suggestions of the royal commissioners ap­pointed in 1826 having been carried into effect in any of the Scotish universities. The principal of United College takes no active part in teaching ; the professor of ethics delivers a course of lectures on political economy, and the professor of medicine teaches chemistry and chemical pharmacy. Tn St Mary’s College there is a principal, who is also primarius professor of divinity, and con­ducts the department of systematic theology ; a professor of divi­nity, who confines his lectures chiefly to biblical criticism; and professors of ecclesiastical history and oriental languages. The members of the colleges have long ceased to live in common : the bursaries are still paid to certain poor scholars, but chambers are no longer provided for them, nor do they eat at a common table. The professors of United College receive fees from their pupils, but those of St Mary’s have no remuneration except their sa­laries, and a small grant of public money.

The university consists of a chancellor, rector, two principals, and eleven professors. These members, with the exception of the chancellor, form the governing body of the university, under the name of the Academical Senate. The Chancellor is the highest dignitary in the university, and the guardian of its privileges. He was originally the fountain of honour, and entitled to confer all academical degrees ; but this part of bis official prerogative has long been in abeyance. According to the original charter, the bishop of the see, as in the other Scotish universities founded by

@@@, M'Crie's Life of Melville, i. 228, and authorities there cited.

@@@' So early as the days of Augustin, the month of September, as the season of the vintage, appears to have been allowed as a vacation in schools. Valesiana, p. 65, a . quoted by Dr M’Crie, Life of Melville, i. 244.

@@@3 Life of Melville, i. 230, 231 ; and James Melville’s Diary, pp. 22—24, there cited.

@@@4 Life of Melville, i. 231—323.

@@@5 See First Book of Discipline : *Of the Erection of Universities.*

@@@β Life of Melville, i. 245, where a more detailed account will be found, from which the abstract here given has been made,

@@@’ Life of Melville, i. 250.