

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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THOSE of our readers, and we believe they are many, who take an interest in the affairs of our University, will be gratified at the announcement made below of a proposal to endow a memorial professorship in the Theological Faculty as a tribute to the personal worth, extensive attainments, and zealous labours of the late Principal. Dr. Leitch is acknowledged to have sacrificed much and toiled arduously in behalf of Queen's University. While caring incessantly for all the departments of the Institution, he was particularly devoted to the business of his own class-room. His students speak with enthusiastic gratitude of the value of his prelections and of the fatherly interest he took in them as aspirants to the office of the ministry. His mode of superintending their preparations for the solemn work of caring for souls was somewhat novel, but eminently practical, and there is no doubt, as we have heard several of them remark, that had his life been spared his course when fully matured would have been most interesting and useful. A substantial tribute to the memory of such a man, to be connected in some way with the scene of his latest efforts, occurs very naturally to his friends in Scotland and in this country as a proper object for coöperation, and it is suggested, very happily we think, that it should consist of a theological professorship. No more appropriate means of honouring and perpetuating his memory could be devised. It will be infinitely better than any monument of stone or marble, more consonant with the spirit and tastes of the man whose name it will honour, a fitter reflection to posterity of the particular species of usefulness to which all his powers and acquirements were ever subservient.

The fact that this proposal will supply an urgent need in the Theological Hall of Queen's University is one of the best arguments in its favour. This need exists. The existence of it was felt by Principal Leitch; and now that he is gone, it will be a solace

to his friends when his departure becomes the occasion of a suitable provision for it. It is in strictest keeping with the sentiment which prompts us to commemorate the lives of the good, that we receive a fresh impulse by their death to extend and complete the beneficial undertakings to which they applied their busy hands.

At present the professional staff of the Theological Faculty consists of the Principal, who, in addition to his numerous duties "as chief executive officer," acts as Primarius Professor of Divinity, teaching two hours a day, and the Professor of Oriental Languages, Biblical Criticism, and Church History, who teaches five hours a day. Each of the following reasons is very strong, and the whole combined irresistibly conclusive, in favour of an immediate addition to these two, of at least one other professor; (1) Five hours' teaching, especially when the work of preparation is taken into account, and it is considered that the teacher has his share of the business transacted at Faculty meetings and examinations, is about twice as much as should be expected of any single professor. (2) Each of the subjects last indicated is in the Scottish Universities, which are by no means regarded as being too fully equipped, a separate department having a Professor of its own. (3) The erection of a new chair, say of Church History, besides relieving the one which is at present overburdened, would introduce a greater variety of thought and management into the superintendence of theological studies which could scarcely fail to be of great benefit to the students who are preparing to occupy the watchtowers of Zion.

As to the means of carrying out this project, a simple calculation will sufficiently indicate what is necessary. The annual interest of £5000 at 8 per cent. is £400. Half the principal, that is £2,500, would certainly not be more than our share, leaving the other half to be furnished by the friends and admirers of Dr. Leitch in Scot-