

SHALL WE HAVE A BIBLICAL CHAIR?

THE question of the need and importance of such a chair in our universities and theological colleges, one would think had already gone beyond the incipient stage of discussion, and reached a more practical one, *i. e.* : How shall we supply the want which is already felt, especially on the part of theological students entering upon the responsibilities of teachers and preachers, of a more definite and comprehensive knowledge of the English Bible?

To be convinced that this is, indeed, a felt want, one has only to come in contact with those who have been engaged in practical work in our various mission fields, and to listen to those who have already gone forth from our halls and have been for some time engaged in actual pastoral work. The testimony of such we believe will almost be uniformly—I feel that my work would be more effective if I had a more complete and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible.

Whatever may be said of our present methods, the fact remains, that under them, except so far as these may be supplemented by private study, the best that can be secured, is only a fragmentary knowledge of the Bible as a whole. The institution of summer schools, and the re-establishment of such chairs in the theological seminaries of this conti-

nent and Europe, and the number of students crowding to such centres, testify to the existing need of a more complete course of Bible study in our colleges.

We have no intention of casting any reflections on the efficiency of the chairs already established in our theological institutions, especially that college with which it is our privilege at present to be identified; for it is the consensus of student opinion that the chairs already established are eminently filled. But that for which we contend is, not greater efficiency within the field covered by any one lecturer at present, but another lectureship for a field which is not yet occupied. Nor do we intend to disparage or under-estimate the instruction provided for by lectureships already established, and which is so valuable and indispensable to any one who undertakes the religious and spiritual leadership of any people. Who would be willing to forego the comprehensive treatment of the subject of Apologetics or dispense with the valuable presentation of the most important facts of Church History? What could be more suggestive and helpful than the work accomplished in the subjects of Introduction and Exegesis for laying the best possible foundation for the exposition and the future study of the Scriptures, especially in the