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Miscellaneous Articles.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

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When the Union took place between the Burgher and Anti-burgher Synods, Professor Paxton who had the charge of the Theological Seminary of the General Associate Synod, declined to join in the Union. On receiving notice of this, the United Synod appointed a committee to consider the expediency of choosing another Professor. This, however, was delayed for some years. In 1823, the committee printed a report favourable to the measure of instituting another Professorship. The Synod took up the matter repeatedly, and at length came to the determination that a second Professor was necessary for promoting the improvement of the system of theological instruction.

Accordingly, on the 15th September, 1825, the Rev. Dr. John Mitchell, of Glasgow, was chosen Professor of Biblical Literature, and it was agreed that the students of the first and second years should attend his class, and after that proceed to the class Dr. Dick, Professor of Systematic Theology, during the remaining three years of their course. These two eminent Professors wrought harmoniously and efficiently together till the death of Dr. Dick in 1833, when a more extended scheme of theological instruction was contemplated, and was afterwards carried into effect. This important subject occupied the attention of the Synod at their meetings in April and September, 1833. It was submitted to a large committee whose report occasioned much discussion; but it was finally adopted by a great majority. The following is its substance:—

“Students, in addition to the course formerly prescribed, viz: instructions respecting the history, evidence, and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, and ii. Systematic Theology, shall have critically expounded to them, during their course of study, one or more of the books of the Old Testament, the gospel history, the Acts of the Apostles, one or more of the doctrinal epistles, and the pastoral epistles to Timothy and Titus; that they shall not only be instructed in Systematic Theology, but have a detailed view given them of the divine dispensations; as these are developed in the Holy Scriptures, on a plan similar to that of President Edwards’ History of Redemption; that the qualifications of the ministerial character, and the duties of the pastoral office, shall be fully explained to them; that they shall be instructed in all the services which, as teachers or rulers in the Christian Church, they may be called on to perform, —such as conducting the public devotions of the Church, the composition and delivery of pulpit discourses, both lectures and sermons, ministerial visitation of families, public catechising, visitation of the sick, the government and disci-