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OUR VACANT THEOLOGICAL CHAIR.

It will be observed that, according to official notice from the Board of Directors, inserted in its appropriate place, the Corporation of the Congregational College are called to meet on Tuesday, the 4th day of January next, in the city of Toronto, for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Principal and Theological Professor, the Rev. Dr. Lillie. We confess to having felt some surprise at receiving so early a summons, partly because it will be very difficult to obtain a sufficiently wide representation of the subscribers at that season of the year, and partly because we fear that, coming together so soon after the melancholy event that has caused the vacancy, we shall hardly be prepared to act with the caution and deliberation necessary in so important a matter. It would seem to us desirable that before we assemble to make choice of a new Principal, brethren should have time and opportunity to exchange views with one another on the subject, either by correspondence, or by personal consultation in their several Associations, or during their missionary journeys, so that when they meet for the purpose of an election, they may be prepared to act with wisdom and unanimity. Perhaps, however, the Board may already see their way to the nomination of some one likely to receive the support of the entire Corporation, and, of course, in that case, the sooner the appointment is made the better.

We are sure that not a word is necessary from us to show the exceeding gravity, and at the same time delicacy, of the matter to come before us. Only when we come to think of finding a successor, do we begin to realize the loss we have sustained in the removal of Dr. Lillie. Profoundly versed in the sacred science he was engaged in teaching, he appreciated more than most men the difficulties which beset almost