## THE CHAIR OF HEBREW AND ORIENTAL LITERATURE IN McGILL UNIVERSITY.

On the reorganisation of the University under its new Charter in 1852, one of the Chairs established by the Board of Governors was that of Hebrew, for which the services of the late Rev. Dr. de Sola, a man of eminent and established reputation in the subject, were secured.

There can be no question that, even in the depressed condition of the financial affairs of the University at that time, this was a wise resolution. The claims of the Hebrew and other Semitic languages as means of education were then beginning to be very generally recognized, and have been more and more acknowledged in all the more important Universities. Further, it was desirable that the University, being without any Divinity Chair of its own, should do what it could to advance the interests of Theological Students, and thereby to prepare the way for the affiliation of Theological Colleges,—since that time happily realized, with great benefit both to the Colleges and to the University.

The Classes in Hebrew, at first very small, have steadily increased, until in the present session about forty Students have entered on the study of this subject, which is allowed to take a place in the regular course of the University as an alternative with one of the modern languages.

Though the effort to establish Hebrew Classes has been thus successful, it must not be concealed that the University was not able to remunerate Dr. de Sola in proportion to the value of his services. His salary, at first very small, was gradually increased to \$1000; but in the financial distress of the last educational year it was reduced to one-half that amount.

It is felt by the Board of Governors that the emolument attached to this Chair is altogether insufficient to enable the University to secure the services of a competent man, whose time and energy shall be wholly or mainly devoted to the work of the Chair; and they believe that this is necessary in order that the subject may have the attention it deserves, and that the interests of the Students in the several Theological Colleges should be properly attended to.

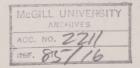
In the present session the Governors have been fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. Professor Coussirat, an able Hebrew and Chaldee scholar; but he has other and arduous duties in connection with one of the Theological Colleges, and can therefore devote only a limited share of his time to the work.

In these circumstances, and since the subject is closely connected with the function of the Theological Colleges, and it is important to them that Hebrew should be taught by an eminent professor in the University, the Governors desire to appeal more especially to the friends of these Colleges for aid in this matter. If an annual sum of, say, \$2600 could be secured, it would place the Chair in a safe position, and ensure its permanent occupation by a Professor satisfactory to the University and to all the affiliated Colleges; and it is believed that no greater service could be rendered to the cause of Theological education, and of higher education in general, than by thus endowing the Hebrew Chair. Even a smaller sum than that above mentioned would be acceptable; since, if added to the amount at present appropriated by the Governors to this object, it might enable some temporary arrangement to be made until more ample endowment can be obtained.

The undersigned, having been appointed by the Board of Governors a Committee on this subject, will be happy to communicate with any friends of the University and of the Theological Colleges willing to give advice and assistance in the matter.

James Ferrier. F. W. Torrance. Francis Hincks.

Oct. 30, 1882.



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## A PRINCELY BENEFACTOR.

THE WILL OF THE LATE MR. D. J.
GREENSHIELDS - LARGE LEGACIES
TO OUR RELIGIOUS, SCHOLASTIC
AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

The will of the late Mr. David J. Greenshields, who e death it was our painful duty to record a few days since, has been filed. After making provision for members of his family, Mr. Greenshields has made the following very liberal legacies, which will associate his name forever with some of our most prominent and most worthy institutions. The portion of the will in which the public are interested is summarized as follows:

To St. Paul's Church, to be investor that	
interest expended by the minister for	1,000
the poor\$	500
Montreal Thistle Curling Clab	1,000
St. Andrew's Society	
Mackay Institute	1,000
Protestant Orphan Asylum	500
Ladies' Benevolent Society	500
Hervey Institute	500
Trafalgar Institute	/ 500
Dawn' Hama	500
Widows and Orphans Fund of the Presby-	
terian Church	500
Young Men's Christian Association	500
Young Women's Christian Association	250
Working Girls' Association	250
Working Girls Association	1,000
Montreal Sailor's Institute	250
Female Home	500
Art Association	40,000
McGill University	40,000
Montreal General Hospital	5,000
Morrin College, Quebec	
Queen's University, Kingston	5,000
Home Mission Fund of the Presbyterian	70.00
Church of Canada	10,000

These make a total of public legacies amounting to \$109,200. In the case of McGill University the testator has made no stipulation as to how the money is to be expended, but we presume that whether it establish a chair or be otherwise used the name of the testator will be associated with it. The executors of the will are the nephews of the testator, Messrs. Edward B and Samuel Greenshields.

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