

NOTE WITH REFERENCE TO
A CHAIR OF BOTANY IN MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

It has been evident to the undersigned for some time that this science, so closely connected with the arts of agriculture, arboriculture and horticulture and with forestry, has not occupied in the University a position commensurate with its practical importance and its educational value. Lectures, it is true, have been regularly delivered, and have been accompanied with microscopic work and practical demonstrations. The classes have been large; as many as 70 and 80 students having been in attendance in recent sessions. But the subject has been attached to the Chair of Natural History and Geology, and could receive only a portion of the time and attention of the professor, who, owing to the pressure of other duties, has been unable to give adequate attention to the herbarium and other collections, or to give such assistance as the University should offer to the public bodies and societies interested in the practical application of botanical science. On the other hand the state of the general revenue of the University does not warrant increased expenditure in this direction.

In these circumstances, and in prospect of a year's absence from his regular duties, the undersigned regards it as incumbent on him to bring this matter under the notice of those interested in it; with the view of securing such an endowment as may place the science of plants in a satisfactory position in the University course, and enable us to use more efficiently in the interest of Botany the facilities afforded by the Peter Redpath Museum, as well as eventually to establish a Botanical Garden and Conservatory.

It may be added that if immediate action can be taken, it will be possible for the Board of Governors to secure the services of a gentleman eminently fitted for the position, and that if any personal friends of the undersigned are disposed to act in securing for him needed rest and renewed capacity for useful work, they cannot more effectually do so than by enabling him to resign into competent hands that portion of his present duties which relates to the teaching of botany.

In the event of its being impossible to secure a permanent endowment, it is proposed to ask for a sum of \$2000 per annum for five years, any contribution to which will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

J. W. DAWSON.

April 19, 1883.

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It may be added that if immediate action can be taken, it will be possible for the Board of Governors to secure the services of a gentleman eminently fitted for the position, and that if any personal friends of the undersigned are disposed to set to work for him needed rest and renewed energy for useful work, they cannot more effectively do so than by enabling him to resign into complete hands that portion of his present duties pertaining to botany.

It is being impossible to secure a permanent endowment of \$2000 per annum to ask for a sum of \$2000 per annum contribution to which will be generally co-

J. W. DAWSON

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REF.