

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN

A Plea for the Study of Greek.

In a recent issue of the *Presbyterian* the Rev. T. S. Armentraut makes a vigorous plea for the restoration of the study of Greek to its rightful place in higher education. We quote in parts:—

“By the perfection of its verbal inflexion, by its incomparable and excessive use of the particles, and by its careful accentuation, the Greek language was unrivaled for the expression of nice and varied shades of meaning with precision and power. As a medium for expressing great and vital thought it is, by its beauty, richness, and completeness of expression, and by its symmetry, without doubt, unsurpassed. In the wise providence of God it was chosen to reveal and convey in permanent form ‘the great mystery of godliness’ to mankind. The Greek New Testament is the greatest book that has been produced in the history of the world. Its contents are the most important, and they are clothed in the most exact and perfect language ever developed

by man. Is it, then, not a matter of deep regret that but few of the graduates of our schools and colleges are able to read, in the language in which they were written, the gospels and epistles of the New Testament?

"Is it not a matter of vital concern, not only to the Church, but to men in general, that the youth now passing through school, college, and university are being cheated out of the richest product of the human mind and the highest type of educational training and culture, as well as being deprived of the knowledge necessary to rightly understand the mind of Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?

"And furthermore, is there not a close connection between the omission of Latin and Greek from the curricula of our institutions of learning and the scarcity of candidates for the ministry of the Gospel? The call to the ministry comes to many young men when they are well along in their college course, or even after they have graduated. Having studied no Greek, therefore, and little Latin, when the demands of the ministry make an appeal, it is apt to be turned aside with the thought it would take too much time and labor now to acquire the necessary training in the languages to prepare one for that holy calling.

"It will be a sorry day for our Church when her ministers can no longer read with facility, and therefore with delight, God's Holy Word in the languages in which it was at the first delivered to mankind; for no translation can convey the full and varied shades of meaning that are stored up for the classical scholar in the original tongues."

GRAEBNER.