
THE WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE
MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—A conspicuous paragraph in *The Times* announces the meeting of many eminent men next Friday, at the rooms of the Royal Society, to found a memorial of our late president. So far, I go along with the sentiment of the proposed meeting, though I doubt whether any other memorial than a portrait, to be hung in the rooms of the Society, is appropriate. But when I come to the actual proposition it strikes me as little less than grotesque. It is to found a sustenance for a widow of an incapacitated printer, to be presumably selected by a body of trustees out of a crowd of pauper applicants—a form of charity that is economically indefensible and almost sure to lead hereafter to jobbery. The movement emanated from persons connected with printing, who sent round a circular some time ago that placed the recipient in the unpleasant position of seeming indifferent to the memory of a man whom he loved and admired by refusing to accede to a proposal of which he disapproved. Eminent as are the persons whose names are published as supporters of the proposal, I notice that there are a large number of no less eminent scientific men whose names are conspicuous by their absence, and I presume that their feelings are not dissimilar to my own. At the present conjuncture I know no better way of expressing the regret that I, and, apparently, many others, feel at the unfortunate turn originally given to a movement designed to do honour to the memory of William Spottiswoode than by writing to yourself.

December 5.

Yours obediently,

F. G.
