XVIII. *Account of the Establishment of a Scientific Prize by the late ALEXANDER KEITH, Esq. of Dunottar. In a Letter from the Trustees to Sir WALTER SCOTT, Bart.*
P. R. S. E.

(Read December 18. 1820.)

GENTLEMEN,

IT is no doubt already known to you, that the late ALEXANDER KEITH, Esq. of Dunottar, bequeathed the sum of L. 1000 for the purpose of promoting the interests of Science in Scotland. Having been appointed Trustees for the Management of this Fund, we have endeavoured to appropriate it in the most advantageous manner for the advancement of Science; and we have the satisfaction of stating, that the plan which has been adopted met with the special approbation of Mr KEITH himself, to whom it was communicated previous to his death.

As the Royal Society of Edinburgh is the principal Scientific Establishment in Scotland, we hereby offer to its President and Council the sum of L. 600; the principal of which shall on no account be encroached upon, while the interest shall form a Biennial Prize for the most important discoveries in Science, made in any part of the World, but communicated by their Author to the Royal Society, and published for the first time in their Transactions.

With regard to the form in which this Prize is to be adjudged, we beg leave to suggest, that it may be given in a Gold Medal, not exceeding 15 guineas in value, together with a sum of Money, or a Piece of Plate, bearing the devices and inscriptions upon the Medal.

If, during any of the Biennial Periods, commencing from Martinmas 1820, no discoveries of sufficient importance shall be communicated to the Society, the interest of the Fund may be added to the principal, after paying the incidental expences incurred, from the preparation of the dies and other causes.

Leaving all other arrangements to your judgment and discretion, we have only to express the hope, that this Donation may realize the Patriotic Views of its Founder, and contribute in an eminent degree to advance the honour and interests of our native Country. We have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servants,

ALEX. KEITH.

J. KEITH.

DAVID BREWSTER.

EDINBURGH, }
Dec. 4. 1820. }

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT, Bart. PRESIDENT,
and the other Members of the Council
of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

That the President and Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, cannot forget the zeal with which their late venerable Associate, Mr KEITH of Dunottar, pursued every object that could forward the discovery and the dissemination of knowledge : and they receive the gift which has been announced by his Trustees, under the conditions prescribed, with sentiments of the most respectful remembrance and gratitude, and with the determination that the intentions of Mr KEITH shall be fulfilled, in a manner, it is hoped, which will do equal honour to his Memory, and to the future successful Candidates for the distinction of the KEITH Medals.

RESOLVED FURTHER,

That this resolution be transmitted by the President to the Trustees of Mr KEITH, and that these Gentlemen be at the same time requested, to accept the thanks of the President and Council, for the trouble they have so obligingly taken on the present occasion.

ROYAL SOCIETY HALL, }
Dec. 18. 1820. }