THE CASE OF PROFESSOR ROSS.

In view of the interest excited in academic and scientific circles by the circumstances connected with the dismissal of Professor Ross from Stanford University, we publish in full the report of the committee of San Francisco Alumni and of a committee of economists. It will be observed that they come to exactly opposite conclusions. The alumni maintain that the dismissal of Professor Ross did not infringe on the right of free speech, while the economists side with Professor Ross in his claim that he is a martyr. It may seem ungracious for men of science, who have in the past suffered for truth’s sake and have won the right to free scientific investigation, not to take sides with their colleagues in sociology and economics when they unite to urge the right of academic freedom. But we can not escape the conviction that the report of the three economists is a partisan rather than a judicial document.

A distinction must be made between freedom of speech and license of speech, between the right to investigate and the desirability of using a university as a point of vantage for propagandism. Our universities should be conservative—they should

Friday, March 8, 1901.

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