

**THE BLACKWELL PRIZE ESSAY
FOR 1860. ON THE CAUSES THAT
HAVE RETARDED THE PROGRESS
OF THE REFORMATION**

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The Blackwell Prize Essay for 1860. On the Causes That Have Retarded the Progress of the Reformation by William Mackray

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WILLIAM MACKRAY

**THE BLACKWELL PRIZE ESSAY
FOR 1860. ON THE CAUSES THAT
HAVE RETARDED THE PROGRESS
OF THE REFORMATION**

THE
BLACKWELL PRIZE ESSAY FOR 1860.

TO
THE VERY REVEREND AND LEARNED,
THE PRINCIPAL AND PROFESSORS,
OF
MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN,
AND THE OTHER TRUSTEES OF THE LATE MRS. BLACKWELL,

This Essay,

TO WHICH, IN APRIL LAST, THEY ADJUDICATED

THE
BIENNIAL PRIZE,

IS INSCRIBED WITH GREAT RESPECT,

BY
THE AUTHOR.

EDINBURGH,

13th Aug., 1860.

No.	1951			1952			Total
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953	
1	10	15	20	15	20	25	70
2	20	25	30	30	35	40	120
3	30	35	40	40	45	50	150
4	40	45	50	50	55	60	180
5	50	55	60	60	65	70	220
6	60	65	70	70	75	80	260
7	70	75	80	80	85	90	300
8	80	85	90	90	95	100	340
9	90	95	100	100	105	110	380
10	100	105	110	110	115	120	420
11	110	115	120	120	125	130	460
12	120	125	130	130	135	140	500
13	130	135	140	140	145	150	540
14	140	145	150	150	155	160	580
15	150	155	160	160	165	170	620
16	160	165	170	170	175	180	660
17	170	175	180	180	185	190	700
18	180	185	190	190	195	200	740
19	190	195	200	200	205	210	780
20	200	205	210	210	215	220	820
21	210	215	220	220	225	230	860
22	220	225	230	230	235	240	900
23	230	235	240	240	245	250	940
24	240	245	250	250	255	260	980
25	250	255	260	260	265	270	1020
26	260	265	270	270	275	280	1060
27	270	275	280	280	285	290	1100
28	280	285	290	290	295	300	1140
29	290	295	300	300	305	310	1180
30	300	305	310	310	315	320	1220
31	310	315	320	320	325	330	1260
32	320	325	330	330	335	340	1300
33	330	335	340	340	345	350	1340
34	340	345	350	350	355	360	1380
35	350	355	360	360	365	370	1420
36	360	365	370	370	375	380	1460
37	370	375	380	380	385	390	1500
38	380	385	390	390	395	400	1540
39	390	395	400	400	405	410	1580
40	400	405	410	410	415	420	1620
41	410	415	420	420	425	430	1660
42	420	425	430	430	435	440	1700
43	430	435	440	440	445	450	1740
44	440	445	450	450	455	460	1780
45	450	455	460	460	465	470	1820
46	460	465	470	470	475	480	1860
47	470	475	480	480	485	490	1900
48	480	485	490	490	495	500	1940
49	490	495	500	500	505	510	1980
50	500	505	510	510	515	520	2020
51	510	515	520	520	525	530	2060
52	520	525	530	530	535	540	2100
53	530	535	540	540	545	550	2140
54	540	545	550	550	555	560	2180
55	550	555	560	560	565	570	2220
56	560	565	570	570	575	580	2260
57	570	575	580	580	585	590	2300
58	580	585	590	590	595	600	2340
59	590	595	600	600	605	610	2380
60	600	605	610	610	615	620	2420
61	610	615	620	620	625	630	2460
62	620	625	630	630	635	640	2500
63	630	635	640	640	645	650	2540
64	640	645	650	650	655	660	2580
65	650	655	660	660	665	670	2620
66	660	665	670	670	675	680	2660
67	670	675	680	680	685	690	2700
68	680	685	690	690	695	700	2740
69	690	695	700	700	705	710	2780
70	700	705	710	710	715	720	2820
71	710	715	720	720	725	730	2860
72	720	725	730	730	735	740	2900
73	730	735	740	740	745	750	2940
74	740	745	750	750	755	760	2980
75	750	755	760	760	765	770	3020
76	760	765	770	770	775	780	3060
77	770	775	780	780	785	790	3100
78	780	785	790	790	795	800	3140
79	790	795	800	800	805	810	3180
80	800	805	810	810	815	820	3220
81	810	815	820	820	825	830	3260
82	820	825	830	830	835	840	3300
83	830	835	840	840	845	850	3340
84	840	845	850	850	855	860	3380
85	850	855	860	860	865	870	3420
86	860	865	870	870	875	880	3460
87	870	875	880	880	885	890	3500
88	880	885	890	890	895	900	3540
89	890	895	900	900	905	910	3580
90	900	905	910	910	915	920	3620
91	910	915	920	920	925	930	3660
92	920	925	930	930	935	940	3700
93	930	935	940	940	945	950	3740
94	940	945	950	950	955	960	3780
95	950	955	960	960	965	970	3820
96	960	965	970	970	975	980	3860
97	970	975	980	980	985	990	3900
98	980	985	990	990	995	1000	3940
99	990	995	1000	1000	1005	1010	3980
100	1000	1005	1010	1010	1015	1020	4020

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

NEXT to the advent of the long-promised and expected Messiah, and the introduction of Christianity, the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century is the most momentous event that ever has transpired in the history of mankind. In the Church of the living God, it was a recurrence to the letter and the spirit of primitive Christianity, and the sweeping away of a monstrous and unhallowed yoke, that had trampled down and debased the human mind and conscience for more than a thousand years. In the Civil State, it was the establishment of the principles of genuine liberty on an immovable foundation, and the setting of long-enthralled nations free. In domestic society, it was the expulsion of ghostly intruders, and the securing to every man the peaceful possession of the sanctuary of his home. In the intellectual and moral world, it was the emancipation of Mind, and the casting open the illimitable fields of Science to the view and the unhampered investigation of mankind.

For centuries had enthralled and saddened Christendom writhed and groaned beneath the yoke which Papal tyranny had wreathed around her,—a yoke more contemptible and yet more terrible than any other that ever fettered the bodies or the souls of men. Patriots had arisen, and toiled and bled in their country's cause. Martyrs, too, had appeared, and had borne their solemn testimony on behalf of a deluded and prostrate world, and against the outrageous wickedness of antichristian rule. But as yet, the patriot

had bled, and the martyr had protested, and suffered, and died, greatly in vain. And, after the lapse of fifteen centuries from the advent of the Divine Author of Christianity, Papal Rome sat as a queen, in all the plenitude of her usurped power—the scourge of prostrate nations, and the oppressor of the Church of God.

But the time of deliverance was drawing nigh: and, just as, not unfrequently, the darkest hour of the night is that which immediately precedes the dawn of the morning, the period of the Church's deepest degradation was the eve of her rescue; and the season of Rome's most untroubled security was introductory to the most disastrous overthrow she had ever sustained. Little did the successor of Pope Julius imagine, when, amid circumstances of unwonted, and, as far as appeared, universal tranquillity, he ascended the pontifical throne, that it was a portentous calm—that the storm was even then gathering, which, after a few years was to burst with terrific fury over the Papal world,—to shake from its very foundations the Papal throne, and to wrest half the nations of Europe from subjection to its sway. Yet so it was. In the year 1518, Leo succeeded to the pontifical chair. Four years thereafter the loud notes of the Monk of Erfurt were heard denouncing the audacious Tetzels and his impious traffic. And when, in 1520, a Bull was thundered from the Vatican, anathematizing his doctrines, commanding his writings to be publicly burnt, and enjoining himself to retract his errors within the space of sixty days, under pain of excommunication, on the 10th of December, in the same year, Wittemberg beheld the spectacle of this same monk, in the midst of a multitude of spectators, committing to the flames the Bull in which he had been denounced, together with the decretals and canons of the pontifical jurisdiction.*

* The DECRETALS were first published in the ninth century. They consisted of letters, decrees, and canons, or ecclesiastical rules, ascribed to the bishops of Rome from the earliest period to the ninth century, and in which they were made to give such directions, and issue such commands, as they would have done had the abominations of the Papacy then existed. Men were thereby led to believe that the ceremonies, orders, and form of government then established were ancient, and even Apostolic, and not, as they were in reality, inventions of later date. For a long time the book passed current in the world, and the canon law was founded on it. But the author had performed his work in so blundering a manner, that, when