

**PRA YER FOR COLLEGES: A PREMIUM  
ESSAY. WRITTEN FOR "THE SOCIETY  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
COLLEGIATE AND THEOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION AT THE WEST"**

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Prayer for colleges: a premium essay. Written for "The Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West" by W. S. Tyler

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**W. S. TYLER**

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# PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

A

PREMIUM ESSAY.

WRITTEN FOR

“THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF COLLEGIATE AND  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT THE WEST.”<sup>D</sup>

BY

W. S. TYLER,

PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN ANDREW LEITCH COLLEGE.

NEW YORK:

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1855

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### PREMIUM OFFERED.

A benevolent individual, deeply impressed with the importance of multiplying the number of educated and evangelical ministers of the Gospel, in order to meet the pressing and growing wants of our country and of the world, has placed at the disposal of the Society for the promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to be given to the author of the best Essay on "PRAYER FOR COLLEGES."

The writer is expected to set forth the *importance* of the subject, especially as it relates to the conversion of young men to a course of education and the consequent increase of candidates for the sacred ministry. Also the *encouragements* derived not only from the divinely appointed relations of prayer to the conversion of men, but also from the signal answers to prayer for this specific object furnished by numerous revivals of religion in Colleges. Then, by way of *inference*, the *obligations of Instructors* to labor unceasingly for the conversion and sanctification of those under their teaching, and of pious young men in Colleges to co-operate in this work—together with the obligations of Boards of Trust, to whom the church in an important sense, commits the sacred interests of Christian education.

*Committee of Award.*—Rev. Prof. Ralph Emerson, D. D., of Andover Theological Seminary; Rev. E. N. Kirk, Boston, Mass., and Rev. L. F. Dimmick, D. D., Newburyport, Mass.

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### PREMIUM AWARDED,

Newburyport, June 25th, 1854.

The Committee for awarding the prize (\$150) "To the author of the best Essay on Prayer for Colleges," have received and examined thirty-two manuscripts. Many of the Essays are written with ability, and several appear well worthy of publication. The one best adapted, in the judgment of the Committee, to accomplish the purposes of the donor, is found to have been written by Prof. W. S. Tyler of Amherst College.

An earlier decision has been prevented by the absence of one member of the Committee for a considerable period from the country, and by other unavoidable circumstances.

In behalf of the Committee,

RALPH EMERSON *Chairman.*

"Prayer and Pains can accomplish any thing."

ELLIOTT.

"I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for any thing, but at some time, in some shape--probably the last I should have devised--it came."

JUNSON.

"The man who would show to common minds the connection between colleges and the interests of the church, would be a benefactor to his species."

DWIGHT.

"The Schools of the Prophets are there; is it not a more extensive benefit to sweeten the fountain than to purify a particular stream!"

WISLEY



## P R E F A C E .

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THE subject of this Essay divides itself into two parts — *prayer* in general, and prayer for *colleges*. The first three chapters are devoted to the former; the latter fills the remaining chapters.

It may perhaps be thought that the discussion of the subject of prayer in general is too extended, if not quite superfluous. But in the opinion of the writer, the weak point of the church in our day lies just here; and it would be of little avail to present colleges, or any other *object* of prayer, in all its magnitude and importance, unless Christians in general can be brought up to a higher appreciation of the *efficacy* of prayer, and to a more vigorous appliance of it as the most potent of Heaven's appointed *means* for the salvation of men.

Others may deem some apology necessary for the extent and miscellaneousness of the second part of the discussion. Possibly some of the topics may appear too secular to be introduced at all into a treatise on Prayer for Colleges. In answer to this, the author would only plead the fact, that so much is written and said in our day to mislead and prejudice the public mind in reference to colleges, and his conviction, which he shares in common with Dr. Dwight, that Christians in the common walks of life are still far from a right understanding of the real character, merits and relations of colleges to the church and the community. In this view, he has aimed to furnish a kind of *Manual* or *Epitome* of the services which the college has rendered, not only to the cause of learning and religion, but also to human progress and human happiness.

If the Essay has any merit, it consists in the simplicity, directness and earnestness with which it labors to show to "common minds," 1st, the duty and the power of believing prayer, and the peculiar necessity of more faith and prayer in our day; 2dly, the indissoluble connection between colleges and all the great interests

of the church, the country and mankind ; and 3dly, the sacred obligations, primarily of the officers and students, and those immediately concerned ; but secondarily, of all who have an interest at the throne of grace, to bring this great power to bear on this most important point.

At the same time, it is hoped that the *educated* Christian men of the country, and Christian ministers especially, will find not a little in this Essay to “ stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance ;” and the writer is deeply sensible that its power to do good will depend very much on the manner in which it is received, sustained and enforced by those whose experience attests, and whose life illustrates the value of a college education. For himself, he claims to have written only what he believes with all his heart, and what he knows from his own observation and experience. The beloved College with which it has been his happiness to be connected, either as a pupil or as a teacher, for nearly twenty-five years, was founded in faith and prayer ; and those numerous and powerful revivals of religion, which have so conspicuously marked its whole history, have followed almost visibly in the