

**THE LIGHT: IS IT WANING?  
WHY? HOW MUCH? AND  
WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

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The Light: Is It Waning? Why? How Much? And What Shall We Do? by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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## THE FLETCHER PRIZE.

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THE will of the late Hon. RICHARD FLETCHER, LL.D., of Boston, placed in the hands of the Trustees of Dartmouth College a special fund, from the proceeds of which they are to offer biennially a prize of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS for the best essay on the subject indicated in the following extract from the will:—

“ In view of the numerous and powerful influences constantly active in drawing professed Christians into fatal conformity with the world, both in spirit and practice; in view also of the lamentable and amazing fact that Christianity exerts so little practical influence, even on countries nominally Christian,— it has seemed to me that some good might be done by making permanent provision for obtaining and publishing, once in two years, a prize essay setting forth truths and reasoning calculated to counteract such worldly influences, and impressing on the minds of all Christians a solemn sense of their duty to exhibit in their godly lives and conversation the beneficent effects of the religion they profess, and thus increase the efficiency of Christianity in Christian countries, and recommend its acceptance to the heathen nations of the world.”

In accordance with the said will, the trustees, in December, 1878, offered the above-named prize the third time, and appointed the following Committee of Award: Rev. E. B. Webb, D.D., Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D., and Rev. J. E. Cookman, D.D., all of Boston. The Rev. Dr. Webb being unable to serve, on account of ill-health, the Rev. John O. Means, D.D., of Boston Highlands, was appointed in his place. The committee, by unanimous vote, awarded the prize to the essay in this volume.

S. C. BARTLETT, *President.*

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, HANOVER, N.H.  
Nov. 1, 1878.

The Fletcher Prize Essay.

1879.

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*FT.*

# THE LIGHT:

IS IT WANING? +

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## PREFACE.

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THE author of this little treatise is deeply impressed with the belief that "Yea" is a more fruitful word than "Nay." It is not what we deny that makes us strong, but what we believe. Similarly, he thinks, dissuasive appeals can at the utmost be but half-way effective. As John Newton long ago said, "We cannot *shovel out* darkness: we must *shine* it out."

His plan, in the preparation of the essay, has been to forestall timid objections to the exposure he felt constrained to make, by showing, in the first place, how victorious Christianity really has been, and how it comes to pass that her victories stand out now in less bold relief than in former times.

Having thus cleared the way for plain speech, he has ventured to lay bare some of the evils and some of the dangers that now beset the Church. If many differ widely with him as to the point to which notice should be especially drawn, he will not be at all surprised. But what he offers is his sincere, well-weighed belief, long entertained.

And the remedy he proposes is simply a living sense of the great central truth, — Christ Jesus the Lord; not only Redeemer, but King; to be not merely trusted, but loyally served. That (he thinks), and *that only*, unties the knot.

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