

**THE LORD'S OFFERING: OR, THE EXCHANGE OF
THE KINGDOM, AND THE CHURCH'S
EXCHEQUER; BEING THE ESSAYS ON
SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE TO WHICH HAVE
BEEN AWARDED THE PRIZES OFFERED BY THE
SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN MAY 1875**

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The Lord's offering; or, The exchange of the kingdom, and The Church's exchequer; being the essays on systematic beneficence to which have been awarded the prizes offered by the synod of the United Presbyterian Church in May 1875 by Various

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PRIZE ESSAYS ON SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

DESIRING to foster in the Churches the spirit of Christian liberality and the practice of systematic beneficence, three Elders of the United Presbyterian Church recently placed at the disposal of the Synod of that Church the sum of £150, in order that two Prizes might be offered for Essays on the principles of systematic, proportionate, and frequent giving to the cause of Christ. The Synod remitted the consideration of this proposal to the Home Committee of its Board of Missions, and that Committee have arranged that a Prize of £100 shall be offered for the best, and a second Prize of £50 for the second best Essay on the subject. The Essays are not to exceed in length 120 printed pages 8vo; and it is expected that they shall contain a full and persuasive statement of the Scriptural argument in favour of systematic, proportionate, and frequent contribution for religious and benevolent purposes, and of the advantages which would accrue to the givers themselves, and to the Church, from the practical application of that argument to the determination of the proportion of means and income which ought to be devoted by each individual to the Lord.

In accordance with the wishes of the Donors of the Prize Fund, the Competition is open to all Ministers on the Synod Rolls of the United Presbyterian Church, and of the Presbyterian Church in England:—and the Rev. Professor LOMAX, of the English Presbyterian College, London; the Rev. Dr JOHN KER, of Sydney Place Church, Glasgow; and the Rev. ANDREW THOMSON, of Broughton Place Church, Edinburgh, have engaged to act as adjudicators of the Prizes.

The manuscripts are to be sent to the Rev. ROBERT SELKIRK SCOTT, D.D., at the Offices of the United Presbyterian Church, 66 Virginia Street, Glasgow, on or before the 1st May 1876; and it is expected that the award may be given on the 1st August 1876. Each Essay is to have a Motto written upon it, and to be accompanied by a sealed Envelope, bearing the same Motto, and containing the Name and Address of the Author.

As the successful Essays may afterwards be published for cheap or gratuitous circulation, they are to belong to the Home Committee of the United Presbyterian Board of Missions, and to be disposed of by that Committee as they may deem best.

On behalf of the Donors and the Committee,

ROBERT S. SCOTT, *Secretary.*

GLASGOW, 24th November 1875.

AWARD OF THE ADJUDICATORS.

LONDON, 21st October 1876.

Having undertaken to act as Adjudicators of the two Prizes offered by the Home Committee of the Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church for Essays "On the Principles of Systematic, Proportionate, and Frequent Giving for the Cause of Christ," we have read and examined with due care the Essays which have been submitted to our inspection, and we have been able to arrive without difficulty at a unanimous judgment in favour of the two Essays bearing respectively the following mottoes:—

(1) Ἀποκῆν ἐλπίσει, ἐσπείων ὄρε.

(2) We can all do more than we have done,
And not be a whit the worse:

It never was loving that emptied the heart,
Or giving that emptied the purse.

To (1) we are agreed in adjudicating the prize of £100; and

To (2) the prize of £50.

We have found these two Essays of nearly equal merit, though in different respects; but there is a sufficient degree of superiority in No. 1 to turn the scale.

The writer of the first is the Rev. ALEXANDER M. DALRYMPLE, M.A., Smethwick, Birmingham. The writer of the second is the Rev. ALEXANDER M. SYMINGTON, B.A., Birkenhead. Other two Essays, nearest in merit to the two best, were found worthy of honourable mention.

The Prize Essays will be found to contain what it was desired and expected they should—viz., "A full and persuasive statement of the scriptural argument in favour of systematic, proportionate, and frequent contribution for religious and benevolent purposes, and of the advantages which would accrue to the givers themselves and to the Church from the practical application of that argument to the determination of the proportion of means and income which ought to be devoted by each individual to the Lord."

Much of the exposition and the reasoning employed by the Authors will be fresh and striking to many; and we do not doubt that both papers will leave a strong impression of the value and importance of the principles of Christian giving for which they plead. Their publication will be specially seasonable at the present time, when there is so hopeful a movement in progress among the Churches in the direction of *united* work in the service of the common Master; for such united work can best be done when the workers are "perfectly joined together in one mind and one judgment" touching the Lord's own revealed will as to the best modes of doing it.

PETER LORIMER, D.D.
ANDREW THOMSON, D.D.
JOHN KER, D.D.



THE Advertisement and the Award of the Adjudicators, which are printed on the preceding pages, indicate the origin and the design of the two Essays which are now submitted to the attention and consideration of the Christian public, and leave little to be added by way of preface.

In May 1873, three elders in connection with the United Presbyterian Church, who were then in attendance at the meeting of the Synod of that Church at Edinburgh, submitted to the Home Mission Secretary a proposal for placing at the disposal of the Synod the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds, in order that two Prizes might be offered for Essays to be written by ministers on Systematic Beneficence. It was the desire of these gentlemen in making this proposal to foster the spirit of Christian liberality among the members of Christian Churches; and so to present to their consideration the scriptural authority, and the manifold advantages of systematic, frequent, and proportionate giving to the cause of Christ, as to furnish motives and inducements for adopting and carrying into effect the principle of giving habitually and conscientiously in proportion to means and income, instead of contributing fitfully and

uncertainly under the influence of present impulse or personal solicitation.

When this proposal was brought under the notice of the Synod, it was cordially approved and accepted, and the Home Committee of the Synod's Board of Missions were directed to make the necessary arrangements for the public offer of the prizes. It was accordingly agreed that a prize of £100 should be offered for the best, and a second prize of £50 for the second best, essay on the subject; and, in accordance with the wishes of the donors of the prize fund, the competition was declared open to all ministers whose names were placed on the Synod rolls of the United Presbyterian Church, and of the Presbyterian Church in (now, of) England. It was specially required that the Essays should contain a clear and comprehensive statement of the Scriptural argument in favour of system and proportion in the application of property or income to religious and benevolent purposes; and that they should exhibit in an attractive and persuasive form the advantages which may be expected to accrue to the givers themselves, and to the cause of Jesus Christ in the world, from the practical application of that argument to the regulation of individual conduct and contribution, and for the determination of the proportion of his income which each should consecrate to the Lord.

The Rev. Professor Lorimer of London, the Rev. John Ker, D.D., of Glasgow, and the Rev. Andrew Thomson, D.D., of Edinburgh, were requested to act as adjudicators of the prizes, and cheerfully undertook that duty. The

Essays were accordingly forwarded to them, and after careful consideration of the claims and merits of the several papers, they at length unanimously agreed to award the First Prize of £100 to the Essay which bore the motto "*Δωρεάν ἔλαβετε, δωρεάν ὀφέτε;*" and the Second Prize of £50 to the Essay which bore the motto,

"We can all do more than we have done;
And not be a whit the worse;
It never was loving that emptied the heart,
Or giving that emptied the purse."

On opening the sealed letters which accompanied these Essays, it was found that the first had been written by the Rev. Alexander M. Dalrymple, M.A., minister of the United Presbyterian Congregation at Smethwick, near Birmingham, and that he therefore had obtained the First Prize; and that the second had been written by the Rev. Alexander M. Symington, B.A., minister of the Presbyterian Church in England, at Birkenhead, to whom consequently the Second Prize was awarded.

The adjudicators all concur in testifying to the general excellence of the Essays submitted to them for examination, and in stating that the two Essays next in order to those to which the prizes were awarded were entitled to be mentioned with honour. They also concur in the expression of the hope and the assurance that the perusal of the two Prize Essays will be found interesting and profitable throughout the Churches, and that their statements and appeals will present the duty of frequent and proportional giving for benevolent and religious purposes in such new and powerful lights as

must lead to a more intelligent and conscientious consecration of income and of substance for the promotion of human welfare and of the divine glory; and thus to the attainment of the end which the generous donors of the prize fund had in view in the proposal which they submitted to the Synod of the Church in 1875.

Through the considerate kindness of the donors of the prizes, a copy of the volume containing both the Essays will be presented to the Minister and to the Session Clerk of each of the congregations included in the Synod Rolls of the United Presbyterian Church, and of the Presbyterian Church of England; and as the aim of the donors and of the Synod is to diffuse information as widely as possible on the important subject to which the Essays refer, the volume, and also the separate essays, will be published at the lowest possible price which will cover the cost of production. It is hoped, therefore, that ministers, office-bearers, and members of Christian Churches may lend their willing and effective aid in bringing these Essays under the notice of the Christian community; and they are now sent forth from the press with the desire and prayer that, through the divine blessing, they may be made instrumental in advancing the truth and cause of Him who is "worthy to receive riches," and to whom "shall be given of the gold of Sheba."

R. S. S.