

**TWO PRIZE ESSAYS ON THE  
CHARACTERISTICS AND ADVANTAGES OF  
LITERALY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS,  
THEIR CLAIMS TO THE SUPPORT OF  
SOCIETY, AND THE BEST MEANS OF  
EXTENDING THEIR USEFULNESS**

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Two Prize Essays on the Characteristics and Advantages of Literaly and Scientific Institutions, Their Claims to the Support of Society, and the Best Means of Extending Their Usefulness by John Mottram & William Purdy

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**JOHN MOTTRAM & WILLIAM PURDY**

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ON

*The Characteristics*

AND

*Advantages of Literary and Scientific Institutions,*

THEIR CLAIMS TO THE SUPPORT OF SOCIETY,

AND

THE BEST MEANS OF EXTENDING THEIR USEFULNESS.

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LONDON:  
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25, PATERNOSTER ROW.  
1850.



## PREFACE.



THE Committee of the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution, in publishing the following Essays, desire to make a few explanatory observations upon the circumstances attending their production:—In the latter part of the year 1848, several members of the above-mentioned Institution, conceiving that an Essay “On the Characteristics and Advantages of Literary and Scientific Institutions, their Claims to the Support of Society, and the best means of extending their usefulness,” would not only contribute to the prosperity of their own Institution, but of others of a kindred character, raised a fund for the purpose of enabling the Committee to award

Prizes of £10, and £5, to the Authors of the two Essays which should be found first and second in the order of merit.

The Gentlemen who kindly consented to act as Adjudicators on this occasion were George Grote, Esq., Southwood Smith, Esq. M. D. and J. W. Gilbert, Esq. F.R.S. Eleven Essays were submitted, and the adjudicators' opinions thereon will be seen by the following letter:—

“WE the undersigned, having separately read and considered the various Essays submitted for our adjudication, do agree in awarding the ‘First Prize’ to the Essay of which the motto is ‘Energy and Hope;’ and the ‘Second Prize’ to the Essay marked ‘M,’ signed ‘W. L. Y.’

“Both these Essays appear to us productions of remarkable merit, and each has a point of superiority peculiar to itself.

“Energy and Hope” is longer, and contains a larger amount of valuable substantive thought, developing more fully the most comprehensive views connected with the subject. It displays greater originality, a wider range of generalization, and a more elevated and philosophical spirit in appreciating the causes of social improvement.

“The Essay marked ‘M,’ though less distinguished in these respects, is decidedly superior in style, handling, and power of exposition. It contains



ampler information about the history and condition of Literary Institutions, together with better suggestions for their efficiency.

“Awarding the two prizes to these two Essays, we are disposed to indicate the Essay marked, ‘*J’ai bonne cause,*’ as deserving the third place. At the same time ‘*Palmar qui meruit, ferat,*’ ‘Glen,’ and ‘Dot,’ are all very creditable performances, each exhibiting separate passages which we should have been glad to single out for reward.

“The remaining Essays, to say the least of them, display care and correctness, as well as genuine love of improvement in the minds of their authors. All, without exception, have afforded us satisfaction in the perusal, as furnishing undeniable proof that the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution works very beneficially in stimulating both active study and liberal sentiment among its members.

“ (Signed)

GEO. GROTE.

T. SOUTHWOOD SMITH.

J. W. GILBART.”

“August 27th, 1849.”

After so highly favourable a verdict upon the merits of the successful Essays, the Committee immediately determined to publish them in their present form; and they confidently trust that they will fulfil the mission for which they were designed.

The Committee, though cordially agreeing in the purpose and aim of the respective Essays, wish it to be distinctly understood, that they are in no way responsible for the opinions and suggestions contained therein.

CITY OF LONDON  
LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION,  
165, *Aldersgate Street*. Dec. 1849.

INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION.

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BY

JOHN MOTTRAM.