

their arts days, etc.....A gross injustice is thus done the *Mission* to which they are sent to preach the word, etc.....But worse still, by year after year palming off his obscure and half truths, is just to treat the glorious gospel with contempt." These are tremendous charges, and should bring a blush to the cheek of any, if such there be, who have so trifled with the sacred work to which they professed to have been called. But is it conceivable that such heinous disregard to responsibility should have resulted from prizes? Surely O. P. Q. must have allowed his pre-formed notions to cast a cloud over his better judgment. The state of matters so graphically indicated most unquestionably proceeded mainly from a different source; for if the prospect of a medal were the sole cause, it inevitably follows that if this barrier were removed, the ambitious trifler would instantly become transformed into an earnest worker for the Master. But a thoroughly consecrated man of God will not be hindered in the faithful performance of his sacred duties by any such glittering bauble as a prospective medal; and, therefore, O. P. Q. errs in judgment when he attributes such culpable conduct to such a trivial cause. He has failed entirely to strike at the root of the evil. It was the *lack of fundamental spiritual qualifications* which was the primary and operating cause in producing such a barren tree. But granting, as we must justly do, that a medal may have been a secondary cause of the unfaithfulness specified, it proves nothing whatever as to the propriety or impropriety of awarding prizes. The best thing on earth may be perverted into an instrument of evil. Beneath the prayer of the hypocrite many a dark design may lie concealed. Yet prayer is a priceless boon. The Bible itself may, and often is used to bring about the most unworthy ends. Yet the Bible is God's gift to man. And, therefore, granting that prizes may become a means of positive wrong, it by no means follows that they are inherently wrong. It is unfair, both on moral and logical grounds, to set forth the perversion of a thing from its true purpose as a reason for condemning its legitimate use. To do so is to berate a right because of the existence of its antithetic wrong.

The next position assumed by O. P. Q. is stated as follows:—"Prizes, again, are the fruitful source of *nearly all* the contentions and jealousies in our colleges," or, in other words, prize-winners are the targets against whom nearly all the existing bitterness and envy of a College are concentrated. To my mind, this is *nearly all* unadulterated nonsense. But granting, as we must, that some students do show visible signs of wrathful inworkings because their neighbor takes a prize over their heads, which, I would ask, is the more correct explanation, to suppose that the fault lies in the individuals who manifest jealousy, or that the efficient cause was sealed up in the prize itself? The matter is easily settled. If the prizes were the actual source of the jealousy then all class-mates alike would exhibit this magnanimous quality. But we