

criminate donation would effectually put a stop to all the benefits expected to arise from the plan adopted. The Medals must be withheld, except from Essays of such character as may bear the scrutiny of foreign countries, because no value could hereafter be attached to a distinction conferred without proper merit. At the same time the Council do not wish it to be inferred, that they are of opinion that no Essay should receive a prize unless it be of the highest character. They keep in mind the condition of these Provinces, and are aware that as in most other things, so in scientific and literary acquirements, we are below the level of other countries: a circumstance, however much to be regretted,—not at all to be wondered at, when the newness of the country is considered, the imperious obligation of first securing the necessary comforts of life, and above all, the difficulties attending the acquirement of the higher branches of Education. The Council, therefore, do not wish to be considered as recommending the Medals to be awarded only in the case of Essays being presented, remarkably for originality, for depth of research, or elegance of composition. To fix so high a standard would prove an effectual barrier to the object in view. They keep in mind that the Society, in offering prizes, desired to *excite* a spirit of research, and to turn the attention of the inhabitants of these Provinces, more strongly to literary and scientific pursuits. A moderate degree of merit, therefore, is all that the Council judge necessary to secure the prizes offered; and as some measure may be devised of the amount of merit required, it may be considered that whatever cannot bear the ordeal of public criticism, and be considered worthy of publication in the Transactions of the Society, must be below the standard adopted.

The last subject, which the Council thinks necessary to consider, is the state of the finances. By the Report of a Committee appointed at the April Meeting and communicated to the Council,