

"That there is a Being, all powerful, wise, and good, by whom everything exists; and particularly to obviate difficulties regarding the wisdom and goodness of the Deity: and this, in the first place, from considerations independent of written Revelation; and, in the second place, from the Revelation of the Lord Jesus: and, from the whole, to point out the inferences most necessary for, and useful to, mankind."

The first award took place in 1814, when the first prize of £1,200 was gained by Principal Brown of Marischal College, Aberdeen, and the second of £400 by the present Archbishop of Canterbury. The number of Essays sent in on that occasion was fifty-six. The announcement of the second award was made, in the Town Hall, Aberdeen, in January last. The prizes were £1,300, and £600. The judges were Professor Baden Powell of Oxford, Mr. Henry Rodgers, and Mr. Isaac Taylor; and they reported in the following terms:—

"We, the judges appointed for the Burnett prizes, in reporting to the trustees the result at which we have arrived, feel it necessary first to state that, after giving careful examination to the whole of the treatises sent in, we have found considerable difficulty in coming to a decision, not on account of any difference of opinion among ourselves, but on account of the very near approach to equality of merit in a considerable number of the treatises.

"We should have been glad to find that there had been two treatises so incontestably superior to the rest as to release us from all hesitation. Still, though there is no essay which, in our judgment, is not greatly capable of improvement, by omission or alteration (which we mention with reference to the future publication of such essays), we are unanimously of opinion that there are *three* which stand, by an appreciable interval, in advance of the rest, viz.:—

[Here they mention the Numbers, Mottoes, &c., and add:]

"We are also of opinion that of these No., &c., deserves the first place, and therefore to it we adjudge the first prize.

"As to the other two, we find much greater difficulty in deciding which of them should be preferred. If the trust-deed left a choice to the judges in this matter, we should have awarded them equal.—But as this does not appear to be the case, we deem it necessary to state that two of our number are disposed to assign a certain preference to No., &c., and that the third acquiesces in the judgment, since at the utmost he would have been disposed only to place them equal.

"And, further, in compliance with a wish expressed by the trustees (in a minute communicated by Mr. Webster), we beg to add that several other treatises appeared to us to possess considerable merit, though requiring extensive alteration and careful revisions.

They then specify the Numbers and Mottoes of several which they regard as highly meritorious.

Mr. Webster the senior trustee having read the report and having stated that the authorship was as yet a perfect secret to every soul but the writers themselves, and that the judges had informed him in a private communication that they entertained not the slightest suspicion of who the authors were, he, amidst almost breathless silence, broke the seal of envelope No.—and read from a note which it contained, couched in terms modest, yet half anticipatory of success, that "the writer thanked the judges for the attention they must have bestowed upon his essay, and begged them, if his note was opened, and they had occasion to write him to address—" the Rev. Robert Anchor Thompson, A.M., Louth, Lincolnshire, or Wallsend, Newcastle."

The announcement was hailed with a round of applause, which was continued with increased heartiness, when Mr. Webster broke the seal of envelope No.—and intimated therefrom that the gainer of the second premium was "The Rev. John Tulloch, Manse of Kettins, Coupar-Angus."

In the meeting nothing appeared to be known of Mr. Thompson or his works; but Mr. Tulloch's name was familiar to a good many present from his having been lately appointed Principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

At the suggestion of the trustees, who thought that it would be absolutely necessary to change the plan of competition, the judges gave in a supplementary report, in which they stated that they quite approved of an alteration being made, and, in effect, for the three following reasons;—First, that if the number of essays increased in the same ratio at the next competition as they had done betwixt this