

PREFACE.

A FEW words seem to be necessary to explain the circumstances which have led to the publication of this essay. Deeply impressed with the condition of the heathen world—of its need of the Gospel, and of the obligation of the Church of Christ to supply that need—a gentleman offered a prize of a hundred guineas for the best essay on this important subject. The competition was open to the Dominion of Canada and Island of Newfoundland. The essays were required to be unsigned, bearing only some motto by which, *after* the prize had been awarded, the writer might be identified. Sealed envelopes containing the names of the writers, and having on the outside these distinguishing mottoes, were also to accompany the essays. The following-named gentlemen, representing different Churches, consented to act as adjudicators :—

REV. WILLIAM CAVEN, D.D., *Principal of Knox College,
Toronto;*

REV. JOHN H. CASTLE, D.D., *President of Baptist Theological College, Toronto;*