

## THE LONDON PARKS.

Who can estimate the blessings to London—who can calculate the bodily refreshment, the animal enjoyment, the moral good, of which they have been, and will be productive? You are elbowing your way up the strand on a summer afternoon, through the dense crowd which daily throng that wonderful thoroughfare; the counter-currents of traffic are crossing each other and mingling in all directions, and you are unceasingly whirled about in their strong and uncomfortable eddies; the rolling of carriages, the rumbling of waggons, the rattling of cabs and omnibusses, the cries of business and the oaths of blackguardism are in your ears—your eyes are blinded with glare and dust; you feel hot, faint, feverish, weary, and a tavern suggests itself as a resting-place; but the Park comes across your mind; you make a vigorous push to the other side of Charing-cross, take the first turn, and in five minutes you lie stretched luxuriously on the cool green sward—close cut, and smooth as velvet—by the margin of a beautiful sheet of water, and with a noble oak or elm throwing its leafy branches protectingly over you! Here is a goodly change! Before you floats the stately swan—the lady of the lake—in all the pride of conscious beauty; while troops of waterfowl, of less dignified demeanour, crowd towards the verdant banks to be fed with crumbs by the good-natured idlers loitering thereon, or get up pleasure excursions, and visit the tiny islands with which the lake is studded. Around you are shady alleys, avenues of noble trees, winding walks, plots of flowery shrubs and evergreens, and all the accessories which art affords, “to great creating Nature;” while among these pleasant scenes, and enlivening them, is heard the merry laugh and seen the playful gambols of troops of happy, healthy children. And all this is yours, or any man’s, for as long or as often as you have leisure or inclination. These be your grounds—your walks—your shady recesses, without cost and without care. All that is required of you is to refrain from the indulgence of that very English propensity, to wit, injuring the shrubs, or carving your initials on the trunks of trees.—NEW YORK MIRROR.

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 June 4, 1838.

ESSAY ON CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.  
PRIZE OF TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS, &c.

**DURING** the last forty years, many excellent Sermons, Tracts, and Pamphlets, have appeared on the subject of Missions to the Heathen; but the want of a comprehensive work, embracing all the topics directly and collaterally involved in the general theme, has long been felt and very generally acknowledged. It has occurred to a few friends of the Missionary enterprise in Scotland that this desideratum in our Christian literature might be supplied by means of friendly competition, were the theme of Missions proposed as the subject of a Prize Essay. Dispensing, for the present, with the consideration of the causes that may instrumentally have retarded the progress of Christianity throughout the world, and with the investigation of the most approved methods of practically conducting Missions abroad, a PRIZE OF TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS is hereby offered for the best Essay, and another PRIZE OF FIFTY GUINEAS for the second best Essay on “The Duty, Privilege, and Encouragement of Christians to send the Gospel of Salvation to the unenlightened Nations of the Earth.” The grand object of Missions, viz., the regeneration of a lost world through the all-sufficient atonement of the Lord our Righteousness and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, must be distinctly unfolded and vindicated from the Sacred Scriptures. The Duty, Privilege, &c. must be illustrated as enjoined or sanctioned by Divine commands, Evangelical motives, and explicit prophecies, as well as recommended by a review of the beneficial effects of Christianity on the civilization of the world, and the reflex influence of the Missionary enterprise in improving the spiritual tone and condition of the Reformed Churches. Under the head of Duty, must be comprehended the obligation to advance the kingdom of the Redeemer by means of prayer, counsel, pecuniary contribution, and personal services. Answers must also be furnished to all the most plausible objections that have from time to time been urged against the cause of Missions.

In order at once to demonstrate the Catholicity of the present design, and inspire universal confidence in the rectitude of the decision, the following Gentlemen have been requested, and have kindly consented, to become adjudicators, viz.:

The Rev. David Welsh, D.D., Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh.  
 The Rev. Ralph Wardlaw, D.D., Glasgow.  
 The Rev. Henry Melville, B.D., Camberwall, late Fellow and Tutor of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.  
 The Rev. Jabez Bunting, D.D., President of the Wesleyan Conference, London.  
 The Rev. Thomas S. Crisp, President of the Baptist College, Bristol.

The Essays will be received on or before 1st June, 1838, by the Secretaries of the Church of England, London, Baptist, and Wesleyan Missionary Societies, at the respective Mission Houses in London, and by the Rev. Dr. Brunton, Convener, or Rev. Dr. Gordon, Secretary of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's Committee for Foreign Missions, Edinburgh. Each must be accompanied with a sealed letter, enclosing the name and address of the author—the Letter and Essay bearing some motto or superscription common to both. No Essay need be forwarded which is not written or copied in a clear, distinct, legible hand. The Adjudicators are expected to make their decision known on or before 1st June, 1840, after which date the Essays will be returned, on proper application at the several Offices where they were originally left, with the Letters unopened except those accompanying the successful Treatises. Half of the profits arising from the sale of the Copyright of the Essay, to which the Prize of Two Hundred Guineas shall be awarded, to be given to the Author, the other half to be applied to such object, promotive of the great cause of Missions, as the Contributors to the present Prize may deem most expedient.

In the name of the Contributors,  
**STEVENSON M'GILL, D.D.**,  
 Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow.  
**THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D., LL.D.**,  
 Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh.  
**ALEXANDER DUFF, D.D.**,  
 Church of Scotland Mission, Calcutta.

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Guysborough, 28th April, 1838.

## TERMS, &amp;c.

The Wesleyan (each number containing 16 pages imperial octavo) is published every other Monday (evening) by Wm. Cunnabell, at his Office, South end Bedford Row, Halifax, N. S. Terms: Seven Shillings and Sixpence per annum; by mail, Eight Shillings and Ninepence (including postage) one half always in advance. All communications must be addressed to the Agent of the Wesleyan, Halifax, N. S.

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