

**PRIZE ESSAY, ON THE GREAT
IMPORTANCE OF AN IMPROVED
SYSTEM OF EDUCATION FOR
THE UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES**

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Prize Essay, on the Great Importance of an Improved System of Education for the Upper and Middle Classes by Wm. Nassau Molesworth

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WM. NASSAU MOLESWORTH

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UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES.

BY THE
REV. WM. NASSAU MOLESWORTH, M.A.,
VICAR OF SPOTLAND, ROCHDALE.

JUROR:
THE REV. J. A. EMERTON, D.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE,
Ghent, Belgium.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER,
39 to 41, Paternoster Row;
JOHN HEYWOOD, MANCHESTER; WRIGLEY, ROCHDALE.

1867.
G.C.H.
8

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BOUVERIE STREET, E.C.



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF CLARENDON, K.G., G.C.B.,
WHO FOR FORTY YEARS
HAS DEVOTED ALL HIS BEST ENERGIES
TO THE SERVICE OF THE STATE,
AND WHOSE NAME AS
THE PROMOTER OF PEACE ABROAD,
GOOD WILL AT HOME,
AND
EDUCATION AMONG ALL CLASSES,
MUST EVER BE HELD IN THE HIGHEST HONOUR
BY HIS GRATEFUL COUNTRYMEN,
THIS
ESSAY ON EDUCATION
IS, BY PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY HIS HUMBLE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
J. A. EMERTON:

PREFACE.

THE accompanying Essay, being one of fifty on the same subject that were sent in, obtained the prize offered by the Rev. Dr. Emerton, President of the English International College. The circumstances that drew it forth are concisely summed up in an Inaugural Address of the Rev. Doctor, delivered at Rochdale, January 8th, 1867, as reported in the *Rochdale Observer*.

In the month of July, 1859, he proposed to Lord Brougham to offer two prizes—the one for England, and the other for France—for the best essays on the immense importance of a close Union of England and France, with suggestions on the best means of making it perpetual—Lord Brougham, the Earl of Clarendon, and the Earl of Shaftesbury having kindly consented to act as adjudicators in England, and M. Thiers, M. Mérimée, and M. Mignet in France. The English adjudicators adjudged the prize to the Rev. W. N. Molesworth, of Spotland Vicarage, Rochdale. The adjudicators of the French prize had, however, been unanimous in the rejection of all the French essays; “and although,” said Dr. Emerton, “I pressed them

very hard upon the subject, they all agreed on the uselessness of again making the offer. I therefore determined to appropriate the £50 to some other object for the public good, and prepared a prize for the best essay on the evils of the present system of Church Patronage, with suggestions on the best means for remedying these evils."

After referring to the evils existing in the government of the Establishment, and to an address he read at the Social Science Congress at York, on "Higher and Middle Class Education," which he had not full opportunity for there discussing, he resumed:—"I thought of another method of eliciting public opinion on the subject, and proposed a prize for the best essay on the great importance of an improved system of education for the upper and middle classes of the community, with suggestions on the best means of effecting and securing it—to be dedicated, by permission, to the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., G.C.B., the President of the Public School Commission. I requested two eminent professors* of Oxford to be the adjudicators, and the Earl of Clarendon, if necessary, to be the umpire. It was not until a few days since that I had it in my power to declare the award, and you will, I am sure, be gratified to find that it is Rochdale for ever. Your neighbour and friend, the

The Rev. Richard Michell, B.D., Public Orator.

The Rev. Thorold Rogers, M.A., Professor of Political Economy.

Rev. W. N. Molesworth, vicar of Spotland, is again the successful candidate. (Cheers.) I had the idea that it would be so when I was here last autumn, but it was not positively decided until the Earl of Clarendon returned home from the Continent, the week before last. It will be perfectly unnecessary that I should say anything to increase your high opinion of Mr. Molesworth; indeed, I think it is quite impossible for me to do so; yet I cannot help telling you that Mr. Molesworth has declined to accept the money for the prize—(cheers)—thinking, I suppose, that it is unfair that I should alone pay for that which is of public importance, and satisfied with the honour that must accrue to him from being the successful candidate a second time, in a contest which was open to the world. (Cheers.) If he is unwilling to receive it, you will readily suppose I am equally unwilling to keep it; so we have compromised the matter, by his consenting that, after the expenses of its publication, the surplus shall be devoted to purposes of public good, and amongst the first I have chosen is the formation of a ‘Cobden Memorial Class’ in Rochdale, for teaching French by means of the translations of the Bible.”

As the lecture of Dr. Emerton treats of a subject akin to that of the Essay, it has been thought desirable that it should be added as an appendix to it.

W. N. M.

SPOTLAND VICARAGE,
Rochdale, Feb. 9th, 1867.