

HINDRANCES AND HELPS
TO THE
SPREAD OF PRESBYTERIANISM.

PRESBYTERIANISM means a form of church government, but it is seldom thought of apart from the doctrinal system, the creed, with which it has been associated for centuries.

In the present inquiry it will not be necessary to dwell upon dogma, although we cannot overlook its value, and the vast importance of sound scholarship and high theological attainments, as well as of vital godliness and practical Christian activity.

In venturing to indicate some of the hindrances and helps to the spread of Presbyterianism I am deeply sensible of the delicacy of the subject and the danger of being misunderstood and even misrepresented, but I have unlimited confidence in truth of any sort, and a strong conviction that the time has come when the truth on this subject should be spoken out. I wish it to be distinctly understood, however, at the outset that in dealing with Presbyterianism, whether in the way of commendation or criticism, it is no part of my plan to depreciate other forms under which the Church of God exists. We cheerfully accord them all a proper measure of respect, but claim the liberty to prefer our own and to cling to it because, after full investigation, we believe it to