

PREFACE.

The efforts which have recently been made to create a change in the Discipline of our Church, in reference to attendance on Class-Meetings as a Condition of Church Membership, are known not only to all within its pale, but even to many beyond it. The secession of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson from the Ministry, because unable to effect that change, and his publication of a pamphlet to explain his reasons for so important an action immediately after, were circumstances which many thought would produce a considerable excitement, and that to the extreme limits of the connexion. This however, has not been the case, and is probably owing, mainly, to the prudent course which the Conference pursued in abstaining, as far as practicable, from all exciting reference to the subject.

It has nevertheless been my conviction, that sooner or later an antidote to Dr. Ryerson's pamphlet should be supplied; and therefore, I rejoiced to learn that one was forthcoming from the pen of the Rev. H. Wilkinson, of London. His piety as a christian; his habits as a pastor; and his intelligence as a Minister, gave assurance that the service would be well performed by his hand. All this is the case so far as the main subject of the pamphlet is concerned, viz. Class-meetings a Wesleyan and Scriptural condition of church membership—but as