

PREFACE.

This memorial volume has swelled to dimensions far beyond the original intentions of the author. So far as paper and printer's ink are concerned, at least, subscribers get a great deal more for their money than was promised them. The plan of the work, which was to discuss such public questions as the Church in St. Gabriel Street had special connection with, and to give an account of the persons who filled office in the congregation, has been adhered to; but the details have covered more space than was apprehended. On taking counsel with friends, whose judgment I deemed reliable, I was led to believe that sketches of those who had taken a leading part in the church, for a hundred years, would add to the interest and value of the publication. These biographical notices have mainly contributed to the increased bulk of the volume.

It may well be thought surprising that the records of so humble an edifice should furnish materials for a book of 800 pages; but the variety of incidents centering in the quaint little church was quite remarkable, and the number of persons of note who had a more or less intimate relation to it, was very great. In the old world, a structure only a hundred years old would have no special reverence paid it; but with the rapid developments