

PREFACE

THIS is an inductive study of divine Reconciliation, based upon a critical interpretation of all the Biblical passages bearing on the question. The plan, as well as the analysis, is entirely new; and the method of treatment seems the only one by which the subject can be properly elucidated.

The title indicates the true nature, as well as the practical character, of the work. It is not Atonement, because that is an indefinite term; it is not the Atonement, because that is an ambiguous expression; nor is it the doctrine of the Atonement, because that is a theological phrase; but it is the doctrine of Reconciliation with God, as set forth in the Scriptures.

Long years ago I saw that the prepositions used in the Bible of the work of Christ, whether those referring to his death or those referring to his suffering, did not suggest the idea of substitution; but that, in every case, what Jesus is said to have done and suffered for us is said to have been done and suffered in our behalf and for our sake. Had that fact been recognized by the early theologians, the substitutionary theory of Atonement would