

## PREFACE.

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THE Second Coming of Christ is a subject of such thrilling interest to his church, that it has occupied the attention of able men in every age of the gospel dispensation ; but, as might have been expected, upon this, as well as every other truth revealed in the Scriptures, great diversity of opinions has prevailed, and not a few of them have been of the most erroneous and conflicting character.

For some years past, the Second Coming of our blessed Redeemer has, at different periods, been announced *as at hand* ; the excitement thereby produced has been, not unfrequently, followed by bad consequences ; churches have been traduced as “ Babylon,”—Christian Ministers as “ false prophets,” and “ wolves in sheep’s clothing,”—and the sheep, in many