

PREFACE.

The following pages appeared last summer, in the form of letters to the "Presbyterian Witness" and the "Dominion Presbyterian," over the pen-name of "Pacifeus," and a desire has been expressed by some who have read them to possess them in a more permanent form for careful perusal and reference. It also appears to me that the time has come when the subject with which they deal should be fairly and thoughtfully discussed. We should not renounce our ecclesiastical status without clearly understanding what it is we part with, for it can never be regained once it is lost. There is so much supercilious ignorance displayed on both sides in discussing "Apostolic Succession," that a re-examination of the subject in the light of the historic symbols of the Scottish Church, and the scriptural warrants they produce, ought not to be inopportune.

I do not know how many will be sufficiently interested in the subject to read this pamphlet. The editor of one of our weekly denominational papers, who declined, about two years ago, to publish some articles of mine on the "Ministerial Succession," probably estimated correctly the value they would have to his readers when he wrote, in his very courteous letter to me, that he had not so much space to spare for a topic in which none of his readers were interested, adding "Good churchmen, like you and M——, are voices crying in the wilderness." *Placet omen!* The Voice referred to found a good many to listen to him by and bye, and not a few fell into his way of thinking.

I fully appreciate the responsibility I incur in raising the question of valid orders, but I would not be true to my convictions were I not to do so at the present juncture. With the hope that I may be instrumental in drawing the attention of the church to one of the gravest defects of the proposed basis of union before it comes to be discussed in presbyteries, I commit these pages to the candid consideration of my brethren. I would take it as a favor if those who agree in any measure with my views would communicate with me.

T. F. FOTHERINGHAM,

103 Elliott Row.

St. John, N. B., January, 1908.