

PREFACE.

A VOLUME of Sermons seems hardly to require any Preface. The form, dimensions, topics, and principles of such compositions as it contains, are known beforehand, and need no explanations. Any thing further runs the risk of becoming personal, and perhaps egotistical.

And yet, the author feels that there are a few preliminary matters, with which he would wish his readers to be acquainted, before they proceed to enter on the volume before them.

The first, is the time, the places, and perhaps, the circumstances, connected with their delivery. The title of this volume may lead to the idea that the sermons contained in it compose a series delivered consecutively, and forming a course. Such, however, is far from being the case. But a brief account of these discourses, and their origin, may throw some light on their present publication.

So far, then, from any unities of time or place existing in this collection, there is an interval of thirty years, and a space of above a thousand miles, between the delivery of some, and that of other sermons, placed side by side in this volume. And the same will be the case in any others that may follow it. Their relative positions have been regulated solely, by order of matter.

Indeed, the author feels it necessary to warn his readers,