

PREFATORY NOTE.



THE papers forming this volume appeared in print before being collected together in their present shape. The first thirteen of the series were published in the *North British Agriculturist*, a journal which exercises a wide and beneficial influence on Scottish agriculture; and the remainder first met the public eye in the columns of the *Kelso Chronicle*, a local newspaper of old and high standing. They were written at intervals of a somewhat busy life, and now appear with little alteration on their original form. Having been written amid the interferences of many other claims on the attention, and in "free and easy" phraseology, the author is conscious that they are open to criticism on the score of literary finish; but he trusts the general reader will find some things in these pages to awaken his interest, increase his knowledge, and stimulate thought.

J. C.

KERCHESTERS, July, 1875.