

INTRODUCTION.

MUCH of the substance of the following Lecture has been addressed, in course of the last few years, to audiences in different parts of the Dominion of Canada. In putting it in a more lasting form before the Members of the Church, I would desire to repeat, and to record the remarks with which I have, on the occasions referred to, prefaced it.

The Lecture is, to a large extent, a compilation from the writings and accounts of others. It has been drawn from many sources—from what I have read, from what I have heard, and from what I have seen. Deeply interested in missionary work I have for years noted down whatever has seemed to me note worthy and reliable, or to tend to the elucidation of the subject, without intending to make any public use of it, and, at times, without quoting my authority. I jotted down, from time to time, from the writings, or from the spoken addresses of the wise and good whatever approved itself to my mind and heart. The allegory, and to a considerable extent the language in which it is clothed, and the subject introduced have been taken from the works of the late Rev. Henry Newland.

In early life it was my great privilege to have been for a short time in the Parish of which the present Bishop of Oxford was the Rector, and in the many years which have since intervened, wherever I have been within the reach of his Lordship's teaching, I have loved to profit by. Often, too, when far removed from that voice and mind of singular power and wisdom have I read, and pondered on their weighty utterances. Years may have elapsed since heard or seen, but the thoughts called up, and, not infrequently, even the *form* in which they left their impress, remain. Often they may appear—sometimes almost insensibly to