

PREFACE.

THIS essay was written at the request of the members of the Rural Deanery of Amherst, Nova Scotia, and read at a meeting of that Deanery held at Lower Stewiacke on May 26th, 1909. It is published at the kind suggestion of members of the Deanery, and of other friends who were good enough to read the manuscript, and to express the opinion that it might prove of some little interest, if offered to the public. The original idea of issuing it as a newspaper or magazine article was abandoned in favor of the present venture.

To those who object to the title on the ground that it is too large and inclusive for a short essay, the explanation is offered that it is not of the writer's own choosing. In this brief survey only a few words can be said about the chief aspects of such an extensive and important subject.

D. V. WARNER.

*Shelburne, N. S.,
July 27th, 1909.*