

PREFACE.

THE following Discourse, composed under extreme lassitude consequent upon a laborious journey overland to Harbor-Grace, undertaken when the rumor of the distressing calamity at that place reached the ears of the Author, who was then in Trinity Bay, attending the Bishop of the Diocese upon His Lordship's Visitation of this Island, has not, in the opinion of its Author, the slightest merit beyond its accordance with Scripture. The very favorable notice, however, with which it has been received, and the flattering manner in which the Author has been informed that it has been considered likely to be useful if it should obtain circulation beyond the limits of the congregation for which it was intended, have induced him to offer it to the Public. Those who have done him the honor to request its publication are, accordingly, presented with the Sermon, without alteration or amendment, exactly as it was delivered at St. John's Church on Sunday August 26, on the occasion of a congregational collection for the re-erection of the Church at Harbor-Grace, which, with ninety-seven dwelling-houses, had been totally consumed by fire on the 18th instant. The amount of a collection made in the town of St. John, during the preceding week, for the general relief of the sufferers, had been about £600. The amount of the collection made at the Church-doors, after the following Sermon, for the re-building of the Church was £18 3 3; to which, it should be added that the Communicants of that day, who amounted to 104, had no opportunity of contributing, as the alms gathered at the administration of the Holy Communion were not diverted from their usual objects.