

PREFACE.

THE substance of the following treatise formed one of a series of Sermons, addressed by the author to his Parishioners, on the Christian Ministry and the Church of God. Having learned that it had thrown much light upon a subject hitherto little understood, even amongst Churchmen, he conceived it to be his duty to prepare it for a more extended usefulness. He accordingly revised his sermon and consulted several of his brethren, in whose judgment he had great confidence, as to the propriety of publishing it. They all advised him to publish; but generally, recommended him to adopt the form of a Tract or small Treatise. Availing himself of the visit of his learned and indefatigable Diocesan to his parish, he submitted it to his Lordship, who received it so graciously that he immediately told the author that, if he would prepare it for the press and send it to him, he would recommend the "Church Society" of the Diocese to publish it.

An offer so kindly made was gladly accepted. It has therefore been thoroughly revised. Some alterations have been made in it. The Tract form has been adopted. Statements of facts have been tested by reference to acknowledged authorities; and the whole has been rendered a concise, but, the author trusts, not a useless Manual, to those who, in this age of inquiry, in looking for the Church "built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone," might, for