

P R E F A C E .

ADHERING to usage, the author of the letters now re-published would offer a few words of explanation. They are unquestionably the result of the incident related in the first. It does not, however, follow that the topics are novel, or consequent upon that event. He has, for many years, felt that the social condition of the Province was frightful ; but partly in obedience to paternal commands—partly from deference to authority and habits of order, either hereditary or the result of education, or both, he has refrained from advocating that social reform which he deems indispensable. It may savor of weakness, but it is not every man who has the courage to undertake the performance of so unpopular and dangerous a part, as that of a redresser of public grievances; especially of such as affect not himself personally. Brutus, when he delivered his sons to the executioner, was both a consul and a judge ; but the author had no special mission. So long, then, as he was treated courteously—so long as he was allowed to retain, or imagined that he retained, the *status* bequeathed to him by a line of honorable predecessors, the inciting cause was wanting. In process of time, however, events following each other in quick succession supplied it. If ever man was in heart and soul loyal and true—if ever man took pride in manifesting under every discouragement, and at every risk of life and fortune, his fidelity to his Sovereign and his attachment to British institutions