

PREFACE.

THE following lectures were delivered, by request, under the auspices of the Protestant Educational Institute, at Exeter Hall, in the spring of this year. That Institute exists to do a much needed work—to keep alive, especially in the hearts of the rising generation, some measure of intelligent sympathy with the Protestant traditions of our country.

England's Protestantism has long been England's glory, and the direct cause of her unrivalled prosperity and peculiar pre-eminence among the nations of Europe. That Protestantism is now sustaining a double attack, from without and from within. Yet few seem fully alive to the danger. The late Lord Beaconsfield saw it clearly enough however. "Your empire and your liberties are more in danger at this moment," he said, "than when Napoleon's army of observation was en-