

P R E F A C E .

It was thought, by some friends who heard the substance of the following Discourse, that its publication might be useful at the present crisis. In a single address of ordinary length, it was quite impossible to discuss, with adequate fulness, the important topics it embraces. The writer considers it as only a collection of hints; of such hints, however, as he deemed important, and likely, by the blessing of God, to lead to a higher object than the pursuit of any transient good. He wished, as a minister of religion, to lead his hearers, as he now desires to lead his readers, to a consideration of their "latter end," and the means of obtaining "durable riches, righteousness," and eternal life. Should this object be attained, if it be only in a single instance, he will have reason to bless God that he was led first to deliver, and then to print, this plain discourse. He would express his conviction that a more extended view of the subject, in both its divisions, by any one of competent abilities and leisure, would have a tendency to produce lasting and extensive good. He is persuaded that the transactions of Commerce are often conducted on principles at variance with those of the Gospel, and that those who thus pursue it are in great danger of losing the unseen and eternal in their disproportionate attention to the visible and temporary. May the Author of all good smile upon this attempt to avert so unspeakable an evil.

Montreal, November 8, 1837.