

PREFATORY NOTE

I DEEM it necessary to explain, in a word, why this tractate has assumed its present form. Having complied with a request from the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society, in December last, to preach the first of a series of Sabbath Evening Temperance Sermons in the Waverley Hall, Edinburgh, my attention was naturally turned to the Bible aspect of the temperance question as most suitable for the time and place. At the close of the service some Christian friends and City Missionaries expressed an earnest hope that I would give my views to the public in a more permanent form. I then prepared the introductory pages as they now appear, intending to discuss the whole subject—embraced in this tractate—as an independent treatise, without reference to any individual writer holding views differing from my own. However, in January, Dr Watts' article appeared in "The British and Foreign." At a conference in Edinburgh, shortly after, where Bible temperance was being discussed, I referred briefly to the article in question, and expressed my dissent from the views of the author. At the next meeting, at which I was not present, the chairman, in response to a gentleman in the audience, promised that I, as the lecturer for the next week, would reply in full to Dr Watts. Thus my lecture, unavoid-