

T H E

WITNESS OF TRUTH.

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P R E F A C E .

YEARS of labour are necessary to effect a movement in society resulting in a religious improvement. In a day of apostacy, there are many impediments to reformation. Time is required to lay before the community a sufficiency of facts, arguments, and exhortations calculated to excite and move. Time is required for the examination and consideration of all that is thus offered. Time then is required for action after conviction; and even after the reform pulse begins to beat, and develops itself in the strength of real life, time and patience are still requisite in order to see anything like maturity or permanence.

For these reasons, besides many others, a movement for the better, without calculating upon extra opposition, must be pushed forward with unabated and unabating perseverance, energy, and self-sacrifice. No single effort ever produced a reformation. A state of things worthy the name of reform, has invariably been earned by great labour and great patience. It is so, and has been so. Luther spent a life in maturing and executing the plans and purposes which laid the foundation of the reformation produced through his instrumentality. Calvin's labours commenced when a lad, and terminated upon his death-bed. Wesley numbered his days, the days of a long life, in giving to the world the system of reform which bears his name. Anything, too, that has been done by the friends and advocates of reform in the present century, has been purchased at a great outlay of toil, energy, and perseverance. And indeed christianity at first, in its establishment, aided and assisted as it was by spiritual helps extraordinary, was not published among men nor recommended to the world without a constant