

INTRODUCTION.

THIS Sermon was not originally prepared for the press. It was the result of deep reflection on the responsibilities which the Author feels he has assumed in devoting himself to the work of a Christian Minister. These reflections were thrown together, and presented in the form of a *Discourse* at North-Port, during the sitting of the last Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, in that place. With no intention to *dictate*, the Author ventured to *stir up* the minds of his brethren. He shortly afterwards received requests for a copy of the *Discourse*. Some also solicited its publication. In compliance with their suggestions, it is now given to the public. For its defects the Author alone is responsible.

Entire originality of thought is not promised. Every public speaker knows how difficult it is to be *original* at the present day. But originality in the arrangement and in the mode of illustration, will probably be found.

The Author offers this *Discourse*, with the prayer that it may tend to impress, particularly *young ministers*, with the importance of their calling. "He that winneth souls is wise."

Brockville, September, 1850.