

INTRODUCTION.

THE want of a manual of instruction, such as is contained in the following pages, has long been seriously felt and acknowledged.

For my own part, when preparing my candidate for Confirmation, I have, at times, been most painfully impressed with the *incompleteness* of the *viva voce instruction* I was endeavouring to impart, and more particularly was such the case, when I reflected how very soon all the arguments and reasonings employed might be forgotten, and, perhaps, uncared for.

Repeatedly, without success, I sought for some little work to place in the hands of my Catechumens, which would not only strengthen their faith in the Ordinance itself as an *Apostolic rite* and *a means of grace*, but, which would also, at all times, supply them with arguments to meet the objections of gain-sayers. True, there were very many most excellent tracts and sermons upon the subject at hand, and a