

PREFACE.

THE writer of the following pages desires it to be distinctly understood that he only uses the words "Brethren," "Brethrenism," "Holiness People," etc., as generic terms, to distinguish certain classes of testimony in the Church at the present time, which cannot well be described so briefly in any other way, so as to be understood by general readers. He has not intended to use these words as terms of reproach or ridicule; his objects in publishing this book having been to show how human failure, although connected with much precious truth, has hindered such a manifestation of unity as the Lord Jesus Christ prayed for in John xvii. 21; and also to impress upon the hearts of Christians, that the only practical way in which that prayer can be answered in them, is by their "endeavouring (in the power of the Holy Spirit) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," not only with those who may see eye to eye with them, but also with all who are united to Christ by a living faith, and indwelt by the one Spirit; remembering that there is only "one body, and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

If what has been written proves to be the means of showing Christians, in all kinds of ecclesiastical positions, their need of mutual forbearance, one with another, in matters where fundamental truth is not in question, and wherein the absence of express directions in the Word of God leaves room for differences in judgment, he will not regret the time spent in preparing these pages for publication.