

P R E F A C E.

FEW cases have excited a stronger feeling of interest in the public mind, than the one of which we are about to submit a slight review. The appearance of several works, purporting to be reports of the extraordinary trial to which it is our object to invite the reader's attention, unaccompanied, as they are, by any satisfactory explanations as to the origin of the criminal proceedings, or the actual position of the parties concerned, induces us to step forward, and set the whole matter in its proper light; feeling, as we do, convinced that the case, notwithstanding all the discussion which it has received, has been very imperfectly understood, and, consequently, that very erroneous impressions have been produced. A case,* strongly resembling the present, occurred in Scotland some years ago, and the

* That of Crawford.