

PREFACE.

THE occasion of the delivery of this Lecture was on this wise : —

An association connected with the "Pitts Street Chapel," (a Unitarian place of worship, in this city,) invited clergymen from six denominations to preach a course of sermons, last winter, in defence of the distinctive principles of the religious bodies which they represented. Having been requested to deliver one of that course, I accepted the invitation ; and in this Lecture, stated the reasons WHY I AM A CHURCHMAN.

Some have expressed a doubt, whether it were precisely becoming in a Church Minister to engage in what, to their eye, appeared to be an *Ecclesiastical tournament*.

In this course of Lectures, there was neither *union* nor *controversy*. Hence there was neither compromising nor fighting, on the part of the preachers. On the Sunday evening assigned to me, the pulpit was mine, exclusively, for the time being. I had been invited to defend the faith and practice of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and I was expected to do this as fully and as forcibly as I would do, or could do, in my own parish Church. There was to be no delicacy of feeling, nor embarrassment of utterance, arising from the fact that I stood in another man's pulpit, and was addressing a congregation, a very large majority of whom were not Episcopalians.

Here was an opportunity for the Episcopal Church to have a hearing, such as she never before had in New England. We were challenged to tell our story, as plainly as we pleased, in the open ears of a multitude, who never