

P R E F A C E .

THE following remarks form part of a larger pamphlet which the Author commenced some months ago, very shortly, in fact, after the publication of Bishop Hopkins' work. Delicate health, and other causes, hindered the completion of the pamphlet. In the interim the wheel has not been idle. While events have confirmed the Author's views, it would be useless and unprofitable to state facts now obvious to all. At the same time Ritual is a subject of such pre-eminent importance, that the opinion of an independent thinker, removed from the scene of struggle, may be of some value. The issues of the present contest are of vast consequence to the Church at large. Questions of faith are really involved, and much, humanly speaking, depends on the wisdom and discretion of the arbiters in the contest. While we offer prayers that the present dangers may be overruled, we should look the matter dispassionately in the face, see what is at stake, what we may lose, and what we may gain.

BENEDICAT DEUS.