

## INTRODUCTORY.

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The writer cannot better introduce the present work to the reader's attention, than by quoting the following sentences from the published prospectus:—

“These Lectures consist of plain statements of truth, confirmed by such statements as the several Protestant denominations acknowledge to be authoritative. The three first Lectures were lately delivered in St. Paul's Church, Mount Forest, Ontario, to large audiences, composed of the different religious denominations of the place, including Roman Catholics: the attendance and interest increasing to the end. On account of the nature of the Lectures themselves, and of the part which local and other newspapers took in publishing outlines and reviews of them, the state of public opinion became so intensely excited and otherways uncomfortable, that the writer thinking he had done enough in the meantime for good, deemed it proper to finish in quieter circumstances the remaining subjects announced for lecture. He had anticipated the natural and immediate results of such public *disclosures*—a good deal of personal abuse, and some degree of commendation—and was not disappointed. But now, that the first outburst of surprise and indignation at the writer's temerity is over, and the people have had time for calm reflection on the truth, other more pleasing results, also anticipated, have been very fully realized, namely, greater caution and charity in judging of each other's religion, and especially of that of the Church of England. But an unexpected result has been the earnestly expressed wish of many persons, of different creeds, to have these Lectures printed, not in mere outline, but fully, as delivered. The writer believing that the desired publication will do good, cheerfully consents, without hesitation and without apology, to give his compositions, in all their unadorned simplicity, to the public.”

He has only to add, that, as he cannot recognize everything as *Protestant* which is popularly so called; so he does not regard everything as *Romish* which is called by that name.

January, 1876.