

THE
WAY OF TRUTH IN EVIL TIMES,

FOR THE BELIEVER AND FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD.

BY W. H. DORMAN.

PREFACE.

It is probable that these pages might never have been written, if I had not promised, hastily perhaps, to revise my "Reasons for retiring from the Dissenters," in order to their being reprinted; and if sickness had not thrown me upon this, as perhaps my present service, in the absence of strength to pursue a more active and accustomed course.

However, in reading over my "Reasons," at such a distance of time from their original publication, I found that my mind had travelled onwards, and that events and principles had travelled faster than my mind, making anything in the way of revision unsatisfactory, if not impossible; so that I had no alternative but either a mere reprint, which I did not think would meet the exigencies of the times and the need of inquiring souls, or to pursue the object of my former book, with any increased light which the study of Scripture and divine teaching may have imparted.

But truths which regard the character, and position, and prospects of the Church of God, lose none of their importance by the lapse of time: and their re-statement at the present moment, and in their present form, may not, in the wisdom of God, prove in vain.

At least, there will be this advantage in the present over the former work, that, if the truths then stated were deemed to be theoretical and therefore unworthy of attention, or doubtful in their application, they will now be presented in combination with experience; which is, alas! in the estimation of many, a surer guide than the unchanging word of God itself.

In my former book there were many details interesting enough perhaps at the time, as giving continuity to the thread of special circumstances, which, without loss, may be omitted now; since the results of inquiry, rather than the struggles of the process, are of intrinsic and lasting importance.

If it may appear that I have spoken with unusual positiveness in these pages, it will be found, on examination, to be, I think, not the positiveness of dogmatism, but the result rather of a habit of unbounded deference to God's word, whose statements, I thank God, have been for years to me in the place of all man's boasted argumentation. For though I despise no helps for the right interpretation of the divine word, I am not ashamed of the apothegm—"They have their arguments, but I have my texts."

My prayer and hope are, that what I have written may be owned of the Lord for the help and instruction of His people, and as a witness, though a feeble one, in these "perilous times," for Christ and for the Church of God.

READING, January, 1856.