

PREFACE.

For the sake of readers at a distance, it may be proper to make a prefatory statement in reference to the following Lecture. During the past season, more than ordinary attention has, in this City, been directed to the Romish controversy. In the early part of the Winter an eloquent Jesuit Missionary, Rev. Father DAMEN, visited Ottawa, and assailed Protestantism in a course of Public Lectures, bearing in a very marked degree the characteristics of the Order to which he belongs. These Lectures were immediately published, and have done good service in arousing public attention to the system which they were intended to promote. Able discourses were preached and published by several Protestant Ministers of the City, animadverting upon these assaults on the truth. To one of these Sermons, viz. that preached by Rev. WM. STEPHENSON, a lengthened and elaborate "Reply" from the pen of Rev. JOHN L. O'CONNOR, D. D., a resident Priest, made its appearance. Shortly after this second champion of Romanism had entered the lists, the writer was invited to address a Public Meeting, on behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society. Having taken no previous part in the discussion, he deemed the occasion suitable to examine the Romish Doctrine of the Rule of Faith, which both these defenders of Romanism had earnestly urged upon public attention. It seemed to him reasonable that Protestants, before they burn the boat in which they have so long sailed, should see that there are no rotten planks in the craft in which they are urged to embark.

The address was received with much favour by the large audience who listened to it, and its publication was repeatedly