

P R E F A C E.

A remark or two explanatory of the circumstances in which this Sermon was preached, and is now published, may be admitted by the reader.

I was in my study on a Saturday evening last winter, preparing a discourse for the following day, when a neighbour,—and he I may mention, as a proof that all intercourse between ministers of the Episcopal Church, and those of other Churches has not ceased,—a minister of that Church, called on me. He had come to express to me his concern about a Ball, that was to take place in our neighbourhood on the ensuing Monday, and to consult with me about the best way of discountenancing it.

As it happened, this was the first information that I had received of the Ball, and I immediately felt that I had as good reason to be concerned for its occurrence, as my Episcopal brother. And, with a view to bear an explicit public testimony against it, I resolved to preach on the subject of Dancing on the following day.

The discourse I had in hand was thrown aside, another text was chosen, some thought was given to it during the remainder of the evening, and a discourse in substance the same as what is here published, was preached on the forenoon of Sabbath.

I was happily enabled to preach it with some measure of earnestness, and from this reason, in connexion with the novelty of the subject, and I believe also its telt appropriateness, my people listened to it with marked attention.

One of them, on my way home, expressed to me a strong wish to see it, as he said, "in print." Deferring something in this matter to the judgment of an intelligent and serious, though plain, member of my congregation, I wrote it out and sent it to my old friend and fellow-student, the Rev. John Martin, Editor of the *Halifax Guardian*, who readily gave it a place in his excellent paper. It appeared indeed under the disadvantage of being divided between two successive papers; and the circulation which it got, wide