

P R E F A C E .

It is, perhaps, but just, when a new work is presented to the public, that the enquirey should be made what necessity existed for its production ? And what has led the author to its publication ? I will endeavor briefly to state the circumstances which have induced me to take this course.

Some time ago, after a close perusal of Elliott's great work, entitled, "*Horæ Apocalypticæ*," I inserted a review of it in the "*Montreal Witness*," with the design of calling the attention of Biblical scholars to that learned production. At the close of that article I remarked, "it would be an essential service if some one, who has the leisure and the ability, would prepare an epitome of this learned effort. The results of the laborious research and learned criticism, without the details, would form a most pleasing and useful volume." At that time I had no design to attempt any thing of that kind myself. Afterwards I preached two distinct series of discourses on this portion of Holy Writ ; one on the seven epistles, and another on the main body of the book. These discourses were listened to with great interest, and were felt to be important by the audiences. Many flattering encomiums were bestowed upon them, and I was frequently