

tical examination on the author's own part, he endeavoured to bring forth publicly, in a small compass, and in the simplest manner possible, the result of his private research and thought. In this way, besides other parts of the Bible, the Book of Habakkuk was gone over; and the notes on that Book will probably be recognised by those who sat under the author's ministry, as not very different from what was given them from the pulpit.

CHAPTER I.

VER. 1.—“The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.”

THE word “burden” is equivalent to prophetic announcement. It commonly refers to coming judgments, but sometimes it denotes the prediction of what is good. Nothing is known certainly regarding *Habakkuk*, except what may be gathered from his own prophecies. He probably lived a short time before the invasion of Judea by the Chaldean armies (See ch. i. ver. 5). His book details the judgments which God was about to bring upon the nation of the Jews for their wickedness, through the instrumentality of the Chaldeans. Judgments are also denounced in it against the Chaldeans, who (it is intimated) after executing the purposes of the Most High upon others, should themselves receive the just reward of their atrocities.

VER. 2.—“O Lord, how long shall I cry,
And thou wilt not hear!
Even cry unto thee of violence,
And thou wilt not save!”

The prophet had long lamented the wickedness that prevailed around him, and had prayed to God to put some effectual stop to it; but as it was not diminishing, he speaks as if his supplications were disregarded: “Thou wilt not hear.” He specifies “violence,” because, as the next verse more fully brings out, that was prominent among the sins of the land.

VER. 3.—“Why dost thou show me iniquity”—