

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE Extracts which precede, and the Object in view, will, the writer trusts, justify publication of the Papers which follow, notwithstanding imperfection of style. In the language of the produce market, they are exposed all-faults.

Questions connected with the relation between the United Kingdom and the Colonies are now much better understood, and receive much more attention, than was the case even so late as two years ago. Hardly any of the published or spoken addresses at the last general election touched on them. If we do not misread "Hansard," the whole subject was ignored in both Houses of Parliament in the session of 1868-9. Not so last session. Still, the course taken by Government was regarded as not satisfactory by a growing number of members on both sides. The reign of absolute indifference is now past. Were it otherwise, recent movements in the Australian Colonies would constrain our earnest attention; prominent among which is the fact that a Royal Commission, or Select Committee, at Melbourne has, by a majority, proposed that the British Parliament should be asked to sanction some relationship to the Mother Country, or rather to the Sovereign only, that would