

PREFACE.

AS authors often state some reasons, valid or otherwise, for troubling the public with a new book, the writer of the following discourses, in conformity with this practice, has to say that, some years ago his attention having been specially directed to the Epistle to the Ephesians, he found it so very rich that he resolved to study it with care. Before he proceeded far in this exercise he believed that not only his own edification, but also that of his congregation, might be promoted by preaching a series of sermons on the whole of it. Entertaining that view, he devoted a good part of his time for two years to the preparation of the discourses which form this volume. During the time of their delivery from the pulpit he was led to think of publishing them by the expressed desire of an intelligent hearer that certain discourses of the series should be printed, as also by the favourable opinion of them by ministerial brethren to whom some of them were read.

The author begs to advise the reader not to expect in this volume anything novel or fanciful, which goes so far to ensure popularity to literary productions; for, in composing these sermons, his aim was the instruction of his hearers, and, therefore, he did not wish to introduce anything in thought or style that might interfere with that object. Instead then of