

THE substance of the following pages were originally preached as a Lecture, at St. Clement's Church, Ipswich, on the Evening of January 1st, 1850.

The desire expressed by some who were present on that occasion, united with my own deep conviction of the great importance of the subject in the present day, has induced me to send forth the Lecture in its present shape.

I can truly say, in the words of that admirable divine, Robert Traill, "The edification of any believer, and the correction of any unbeliever, will over-pay the labour of this service. This is all I design and desire. I have neither sought patrons nor vouchers, beside the Spirit of God speaking in the Scripture of truth. At this bar all men and all doctrines must stand and be judged."

J. C. RYLE.

*Helmingham Rectory,
February, 1850.*

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