

PREFATORY NOTE.

After the following discourse was delivered, several persons (including some of the leading Official Members of the Church) expressed a desire for its publication, believing that it would not only answer the end for which it was written, but also exert a good influence elsewhere. It is in deference to the wishes of these friends that I now give it to the public.

In regard to the literary character of the production, I have need to crave the indulgence of the reader. It was written in great haste; and as I judged it best to publish only what had been spoken in the pulpit, it is sent to press without any alteration or revision. It will readily be seen that no attempt is made at rhetorical embellishment; my object was to produce a plain sermon for plain people, and to state as distinctly as possible what I conceived to be the Scripture doctrine of Civil Government, and the duties we owe to it.

Besides this, writing sermons is, to me, a new task,—this being the only one that I have ever written out in full. It is hoped, therefore, that these facts will induce the kind reader to be lenient in his criticisms.

A. SUTHERLAND.

HAMILTON, March, 1860.