

P R E F A C E .

IN the following pages it has been the writer's aim and endeavour to exhibit truth to his fellow-countrymen, and in his humble way to appeal to those whose duty it is to lead public thought in matters of religion and Bible teaching, particularly with regard to Prophecy—a thing very seldom touched upon by them, but quite as essential at this era of the world's history as it was when the Messiah said, "If they believe not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." If there was not another incentive in the whole of the Word of God to the study of the prophetic utterances this is amply sufficient; and yet as a rule—I am glad to say there are a few honourable exceptions—our Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and the Ministers of our holy religion, of every denomination, either make no attempt to elucidate Prophecy, or do it in such a manner as to impress their hearers with the idea that what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has laid so much stress upon is of little or no consequence. The following Essay is an earnest appeal to our Religious Guides especially and to Englishmen generally, who have not already done so, to reconsider the whole matter. The writer does not complain that at a time when no special attention was directed to the subject, our teachers were content simply to accept what had been handed down to them as tradition. He does not condemn them for the fact that in consequence of following too closely the opinions of our Commentators and Divines, who, writing at a time when mental and moral darkness were prevalent, have often been misled and have consequently misled others, not on the subject of our Identity with Israel alone, but on a host of other subjects of a doctrinal nature which have only recently been by them reconsidered and rectified, or greatly modified. The