

PREFACE.

THESE Lectures, which were orally delivered in the early part of the year, are now given to the public in a printed form. The author was not laid under any of the restrictions as to the time of publication which have been laid down since in Mr. Baird's Deed of Bequest; and various circumstances, which it is unnecessary to mention, have occasioned its postponement till this date.

The choice of a subject was left entirely to the judgment and taste of the Lecturer; and being the first of a series intended to expound and establish the great fundamental truths of Christianity, it appeared to him that no theme could be so appropriate as a short treatise on the divine character and authority of the Book which forms "the only rule that God has given to teach us what we are to believe concerning Him, as well as what is the duty He requires of man." Besides, a con-

densed view of the arguments which prove the Scriptures to be the inspired word of God is greatly needed in the present day, when the public mind is, from various causes, agitated on religious matters, and the foundations of old beliefs are eagerly examined; and it is hoped that some aid may be afforded by the following Lectures to honest and anxious inquirers, who long to rest their faith in the inspiration of the Scriptures on a sound and solid basis.

The Author deems it a high honour that he was requested to commence a Lectureship which, he fondly trusts, will in the future series reflect credit on Scotland, by contributing to stimulate the study of Theology amongst her clergy, and thereby to promote the cause of Christ.

GLASGOW, *December* 1873.