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PREFACE.

It is now about seven years since the light began to break upon my mind, with respect to the English, as having remarkably fulfilled unto them the promises, given through Jacob, unto his once long-lost son, Joseph. Thenceforth I set myself to inquire into the origin of the Anglo-Saxon race; and to see whether there could, from their early history, be collected evidence as to their being really the children of those unto whom the promises were made. I soon discovered that there was no evidence to the contrary; but that any true knowledge of the quarter from which they had come, and of their character, appearance, institutions, and proceedings generally, was minutely consistent with the idea which, from the Scripture predictions, I had been led to entertain. In August, 1838, I had so far proceeded with the inquiry, as to be prepared to give a course of eight Lectures on the subject. The first sketch of these Lectures I submitted to that experienced, and deeply-devoted servant of God, the late Rev. Peter Roe, of Kilkenny, who seemed to be intimately acquainted with history, as well as with that gospel of which he was a most faithful preacher; and his answer was, that he wished these Lectures were delivered in every city and town of Ireland. He attended the first course, which was delivered in the neighbourhood of Dublin, where I was then residing. I had thus so far an opportunity of knowing that nothing tangible could be brought against the view; indeed the communication was expressly made to me, by one of the clergymen who attended, that although they were not prepared to accede at once to all I said, yet they had no good reason to allege in opposition to the views I propounded, and that it was certainly my duty to go forward. The same, in substance, has frequently been stated to me since, by other ministers of the church of England, as well as by those of other denominations. In 1839 I gave several courses of Lectures on the subject, especially in the north of Ireland. Objections were here and there presented, which, when examined, uniformly resulted in additional confirmation of the views I advocated.

In 1840 I delivered several courses of Lectures in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, chiefly to schools, when I had opportunity of seeing how clearly the subject could be apprehended by the minds of youth of both sexes; and how usefully it might be made the basis of very much of that knowledge which it becomes us to possess, both as inhabitants of this world, and as expectants of the world to come. I also delivered public courses, both in Woodside and in the Medical Institution, Liverpool. Several of the most eminent clerical students of prophecy attended. One of them had previously expressed his dissent from the view; and said that, after having examined my evidence, he would speak out if he found me in the wrong. He did not do so; and I suppose that the Rev. Hugh M'Neile is not a man that would fail to fulfil his word: but, otherwise, I have no sure evidence that he yet sees along with me in the matter. In addition to lecturing, he had recommended this other means of laying the information before the public; and accordingly, in the same year, I published the first edition of my Lectures on "Our Israelitish Origin;" and, from many different parties, I have received evidence of the usefulness of that book; and many are the quarters in which I have beheld the influence of the views advocated therein, even when that influence has not been acknowledged.