

## P R E F A C E.

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THE following Lectures, with the exception of the Tenth and Eleventh, were delivered in the course of this winter—first in Blythswood Church, Glasgow, and afterwards in St George's Church, Edinburgh,—being the Second Series of *the Baird Lectures*, recently instituted by the munificent liberality of James Baird, Esq. of Auchmedden and Cambusdoon. They are now published in terms of his trust deed.

Lectures X. and XI. were not delivered orally, the matters discussed in them being, in the author's judgment, much less fitted for the pulpit than for the press. They are inserted, however, in this volume, inasmuch as any work on "The Mysteries of Christianity" might not unreasonably be regarded as defective, if it did not specially refer to the deeply mysterious subjects of Predestination and Election.

The author begs it to be understood that his aim has been, not to attempt a solution of the mysteries connected with some of the great doctrines of revelation, but to show that the mysteriousness of these doctrines, however inexplicable, is no sufficient reason either for excluding them from the place they occupy among the articles of the Christian faith, or for discrediting the Christian system as containing them.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,

*20th April 1874.*