

The Printer to the Reader.



SUPPOSE it altogether needlesse (Christian Reader) by commending Mr. WILLIAM PERKINS, the Author of this Booke, to wooe your holy affection, which either himselfe in his life time by his Christian conversation hath woone in you, or subhence his death, the neuer-dying memorie of his excellent knowledge, his great humilitie, his sound religion, his fervent zeale, his painefull labours, in the Church of God, doe most iustly challenge at your hands. Onely in one word I dare be bold to say of him, as in times past Nazianzen spake of Athanasius. His life was a good definition of a true Minister and preacher of the

Gospel. And needlesse also is it (if not inuiolous) by praising of his learned and godly writings, to thinke to incline your better iudgement which in so holy a subiect (as is the body of Divinitie, and principles of Religion) I dare not suspect to be unferled; and in so easie a methode and familiar a style, which he useth in them both, I am sure can hardly miscarrie. Such is his love to all, that, as for the matter of his doctrine, he con- cerneth and satisfieth the most learned; so for the manner of his deliuering the same, he condescendeth to the capacitie of the meaneest of Gods children. I here once more present vnto you the worker of this worthy man. Reads them diligently, and iudge of them freely. I doubt not but in your exactest censure, you will conspire with those learned Men, whose for the profitable instruction they come in, all, or the most points of Christianitie, for the more common good of the Church of God, have deemed them worthy their godly labours; by translating them into diuers languages, as into Latine, Dutch, Spanish, &c. A thing not ordinarily obser- ued in other writings of these our times.

Concerning this new Edition, if you aske, why I haue not added these other Treatises of his, which haue bene published since the former Impression? I answer, it is not done without the aduice of grave and learned men in two respects: First, to set a difference (as indeede there is great oddes) betwixt those booke which the Author himselfe yet liuing by his owne care not onely in the penning, but likewise in the correcting of the same, did set forth: and those other which are Posthumous, that is, borne after his death, gathered and col- lected by others: Such as are these following:

1. Vpon three chapters of the Reuelation.
2. Sathans Sophistrie.
3. Vpon the Epistle of Saint Iude.
4. The dignitie of the Ministerie.
5. Vpon the eleuenth chapter to the Hebrewes.
6. Vpon three chapters of Saint Matthewes Gospel, &c.

Secondly, because I haue remaining by me so many other Treatises in diuers print and formes of the same Authors owne collection, which I purpose (by Gods permission) to set forth, as will amount to a second Vo- lume equall to this, if not bigger.

In the meane time, what heretofore I haue wished concerning such as haue the interest in these After- births, viz. that they would agree likewise, to draw them all into one Volume, that so they that take delight in Mr. Perkins his writings, might with lesse labour of their owne, attaine to the compleate body of his stu- dies: it being also more conuenient for their vse, to haue them rather compacted in one Volume, then scat- tered into diuers parcels of diuers formes: I now vnderstand, is effected, and nothing henceforth to be added. Thus with promise to make all possible expedition in setting forth the second Volume of his works: I com- mend this to your diligent reading, my endeavours to your charitable construction, and vs all to the blessing and holy protection of Almighty God. From London this 15. of December. 1612.