


PREFACE.

HE three first lectures in the following collection—on Earthquakes and Volcanoes, on the Sun, and on Comets—were delivered by the Author to a village audience, in the school-house of the parish of Hawkhurst, in Kent, his place of residence. They were subsequently printed as contributions to the pages of that excellent and useful periodical, *Good Words*, in which they were followed by those “On the Weather and Weather Prophets,” “On Celestial Measurements and Weighings,” and “On Light,” the latter assuming in its progress the dimensions of a little elementary