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SPEECHES

ON SOME CURRENT

POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

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PREFACE.

I PROBABLY should not have thought of publishing the present volume had it not happened that in the past session the discussion on the Indian Budget did not commence until so late an hour in the evening as to render it impossible for the debate to be adequately reported. Many friends consequently asked me to publish the speech which I made in that debate. After I had consented to do so, I thought it might not be inappropriate to publish some other speeches which I had made on questions which still await settlement. It may be thought that as the present volume contains three speeches on the Irish University question, that I have not confined it simply to political subjects which still remain unsettled. I have however endeavoured to shew that much remains to be done in reference to University Education in Ireland; and it certainly appeared to me that a short retrospect of the history of the question might not be wanting in interest to those who will have to determine the future of higher educa-