

of some who have written in favour of them, but without mentioning the names of the authors; the reason of which is, that persons or particular parties are not attacked, but errors, let them be found with what persons or parties they may. The same method has been occasionally observed, in regard to those who have maintained the doctrines herein stated; and when the reader is referred to an author's name, it is not with the least design, either to rest the sentiment upon his credit, or screen the writer from censure, under covert of another's reputation: for though he highly esteems their writings, who have been valiant for the truth, yet if ten thousand writers, in the highest reputation for orthodoxy, could be produced in confirmation of what is here said, unless they were prefaced with, Thus saith the Lord, they will only stand as so many insignificant cyphers in the esteem of those who have 'an ear to hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.' On the other hand, if the reasoning of these Essays be found to accord with the word of truth, it will be a very small circumstance with discerning Christians, though the wise, the learned, or the seemingly religious, should unite to reprobate the book, and load its author with reproach; for what are the highest sounding names among men, to the name and authority of Christ? and what should Christians fear, though their faith and practice provoke the contempt of nations? would any strange thing happen to them if it should be so? Nay verily! for so persecuted they the prophets and apostles, which have gone before them.

The writer has nothing to say in favour of the manner in which the work is executed. He makes no pretention to accuracy of language, or refine-