

INTRODUCTION.

There was a time when science and religion were so directly opposed, that the followers of science were prone to think, that they could advance no stronger claim to the attention of the reflecting part of mankind, than an avowed and thorough dislike to revelation,—whilst the votaries of religion were disposed to corroborate their pretensions to piety, by asserting in no measured language an unequivocal aversion to the speculations of science. That time is already ebbing fast away. More than one of the sciences, has in these latter days come forward, to offer allegiance to the word of God, and to avail itself of the disclosures of revelation; and several of the master spirits of theology, in our days, have derived a chief share of their strength, their eloquence, their attractiveness, and their celebrity, from this source—that they have discerned the relation which really exists between the *natural* and the *moral* world—that they have contended for an alliance between the two—that they have maintained science to be the best commentator on religion, and religion to be the natural and enlightened patroness of science.