

this aspirant among the books to the study and attention of devout minds and prayerful hearts may affirm a likeness to Paley's "Natural Theology and Evidences of Christianity," in one, and only one, regard; and to Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," in another; namely, that after the pattern of the genesis of the former immortal works, it springs out of external occasion and actually existing circumstances, out of the current thought of the time; and after the style of the production of the latter, it has been, as to its substance, the subject of observation and study for some time; and then written through interruptions, and in a hurry. No wonder if there are ill-joined parts, crudities and repetitions. Some strange, extravagant and misleading views on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the privilege of believers in Christ on the one hand; and on the other some denunciations of these views, led to closer examination of the Scriptures on this doctrine; supplied the germ of a sermon, and the sermon grew into a book. And now the book is sent forth, with the earnest prayer that it may do many people much good. It certainly never will win its way by its lore or its literary excellencies; nor is this expected or designed. Its matter and marrow must be its passport to the favor of ordinary Christian people who "think on these things."