

REASON OR REVELATION;

OR, THE RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, AND CIVILISATION OF THE ANCIENT
HEATHEN, CONTRASTED WITH CHRISTIANITY AND ITS LEGITIMATE
CONSEQUENCES.

INTRODUCTION.

In discussing this subject, there are two main objects aimed at:—

1st. To endeavour to correct prevalent errors, and show the worthlessness and falseness of that would-be intellectuality of those who foster and propound them; and who perpetually bring up the ancient past for admiration, and ascribe, with an inexcusable ignorance, or wilful perversion, great excellencies to ancient systems and times; to the deterioration of Christianity. Singular and inconsistent as it may seem, there are not a few who make a nominal profession of the recognition of the truth of the gospel, who are too ready, from the pride of reason, the desire to dignify what they call “the god-like qualities of humanity,” and from hasty, unhistorically-supported conclusions, to magnify the great era of heathen power and philosophy, and to hold it up as the golden age of the world’s intellectual might and social refinement, and to present a Solon, a Socrates, or a Plato, as a specimen of all that is wise and good, and to elevate such to a level with that “Teacher who came from God,” and who “spake as never man spake;” and thus would carry us back, and have us believe that “the former times were better than these.” There is a disposition in many to read the works of the ancient sages—at any rate to boast of their acquaintance with them, however shallow that may be—and to treat the wisdom of Jesus as if it were too common-place, too familiar to the vulgar to demand attention, and too humble to be worthy