

and systematic order, convenient for reference. Hence the **LACONIC MANUAL AND BRIEF REMARKER**, designed as an introduction to an enterprise which ought to be carried to a high degree of perfection.

The reader will find many subjects in this work, upon which the poets have not usually sung, nor the oracles for aphorisms spoken. This self-seeking world has always been inclined to avoid such themes as the chief end and peculiar prerogatives of God, a particular providence, the distinctive features of the Gospel of his grace, and those reproving, self-denying principles of universal righteousness and reform, which were "to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks, foolishness." But who can doubt that the glory, interests, and majesty of God, must be exalted high above the tiny objects and interests of the intelligent creation; and the principles of the disinterested religion and morality of the Bible be exalted to their own eminence, in order to impart light and power to inferior truths, and thus prepare the way for the most salutary and effective impressions?

Besides the invaluable and transforming thoughts with which weighty and truthful aphorisms and apothegms are laden, there is a great advantage in the frequent perusal of laconics and terse paragraphs, by reason of their powerful influence upon our mode of expression and style of writing. A familiarity with these gems of thought, imperceptibly corrects a loose and indiscriminate style of expression, and creates a terse and elevated mode of uttering our thoughts.

The public are indebted to several friends of this enterprise, who promptly responded to the invitation to render aid, for a considerable portion, both of its original and selected aphorisms and paragraphs. I have given credit to some authors, by prefixing their names, and regret that this was not contemplated earlier. Curious minds like to know who speaks, as well as what is spoken. In occasionally abridging sentences or paragraphs, to suit the design of this work, I have aimed to avoid misrepresentation, where there was not room fully to represent.

CHARLES SIMMONS.