

INTRODUCTION.

To those acquainted with the person or reputation of the gentleman to whom the following epistle is designed to be addressed, there is no doubt it will look like presumption in a stranger and foreigner, as your humble servant is, to attempt to reply to a work which wants no other merit, to secure it any amount of credit. but the name of REV. W. SOMERVILLE of Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. Indeed, I mean no flattery either to that gentleman or myself when I say that his reputation is that of the very best classical scholar and critic, and logician, and unrelenting reasoner in the whole Province. Indeed, if it is superior can be found in the British Provinces, or in the new Federal States. And I sincerely hope the gentleman will pardon me for making thus free with his reputation, of which I know nothing, only as I have heard. So if I misrepresent the worthy gentleman, whom I will take the liberty of addressing, the mistake is not mine, but that of my honored and esteemed friend, the generous public; and I am but giving them back their own.

That generous public are hereby reminded, that in addition to the embarrassment consequent on my consciousness of the reputation of the individual to whom the following are to be addressed, there is an additional reason why they should not expect too much at our hand. The reason is this: we are far from home, and thoughts of friends crowd not unfrequently upon our recollection; we are day and night engaged in teaching, having the largest school in these parts; and even Lord's days and the *evenings* of Lord's days are denied, having all that time taken up in addressing two congregations of dear brethren. But it will be asked, "When will he write"? It is, it has been, it must still be, *while others sleep*. Scraps thrown thus together can at best be patch-work, and if it were a display which we sought, here is certainly a most barren prospect.

But under such circumstances, what can be the motive that can induce a stranger, thus forlorn, thus circumstanced, to review the