

CONTENTS.

- I. The Mosaic history of creation, reviewed. 1.
 - II. Proofs of the being and perfections of God, from a brief Sketch of Astronomy. 7.
 - III. Evidences in favour of Christianity. 13.
 - IV. The completion of Prophecy exemplified in the destruction of Jerusalem, a striking proof of the truth of Revelation. 15.
 - V. Description of the city of ancient Babylon: 21.
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To the Public.

SOLICITOUS for the spread of useful knowledge the editor has, for some time, employed his moments of reflection, in concerting the plan of a new periodical work, the first number of which, as a specimen, he now offers to the public. To distinguished refinement in sentiment or composition, to new discoveries or extraordinary improvements,—he does not pretend. In justice to himself, however, he is constrained to say, his publication will furnish a more comprehensive view of history, of science, and of religion, than any one book, with which he is acquainted. He had, in early life, a regular academical education, and has published several pieces, which have had a favourable reception from the public. He writes, especially, for the instruction and improvement of that numerous class of readers, whose situation does not permit them either to expend much money in purchasing, or to employ much time in reading a variety of books. His ultimate aim is to elucidate and defend the great doctrines and duties of revealed religion. His principles, political or religious, he is not either afraid or ashamed to avow or defend. His religious sentiments will be found conformable to the confession and catechisms of the church of Scotland, the doctrinal articles of the church of England, and the creeds of the other reformed churches. In attachment to the British constitution, and that best of sovereigns, in whose dominions he had the happiness to be born, and hopes to die, he does not yield to any of his fellow-subjects. He has ample recommendations in his power; but is determined to leave his work to speak for itself. It consists mostly of his own compilations; and he solicits no higher degree of patronage than, upon a candid perusal, it shall be found to merit.