

INTRODUCTION

NECESSITY OF A RELIGION, AND THE OBLIGATION OF STUDYING IT.

1.—NECESSITY OF RELIGION.

THE existence of the universe and the admirable order which reigns throughout, necessarily suppose a wise and powerful cause.

That cause is God; He it is who has created all things, and who regulates all according to the eternal laws of His divine wisdom. Of all created beings, man alone is endowed with intelligence and liberty; he alone is capable of knowing, willing, and loving; nevertheless, God, who is wisdom itself, has only given these faculties to man to the end that they may be employed in promoting His glory.

These truths, unquestionable as they are, prove beyond all doubt the necessity of a religion, that is to say, a connexion of obedience and love from the rational being to his Creator. Vainly will it be said that God is too great and too far elevated above us to take any interest in the honour which we render Him. God, it is true, has no need of our