

P R E F A C E .

ALL subjects must be taught by elementary treatises : to this rule, religion forms no exception ; and as books for children, compose a very useful, though humble department, in general literature, so in the great science of salvation, he aims at no unimportant object, who writes for those who are anxious to be converted, and who are willing, for that purpose, to become as little children in the school of Christ. Such is my design ; to accomplish which, I sought after the greatest simplicity of style. Writing for babes in Christ, I have given little more than the alphabet of personal religion ; but the learning of which is necessary to future progress. Almost all teachers, whether of children or of adults, commit the error of taking for granted, that their pupils know more than they really do : it is far