

THE CANADIAN

CHRISTIAN EXAMINER,

AND

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

NUMBER 10.

OCTOBER, 1855.

VOLUME 2.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

REVIEW.

EVIDENCES OF REVEALED RELIGION, BY A NUMBER OF
THE MINISTERS OF GLASGOW.

LECTURE II.

THE GENUINENESS AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE WRITINGS OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

By the Rev. Patrick Fairbairn, Minister of Bridgeton Parish, Glasgow.

We resume our notice of the "*Lectures on the Evidences of Revealed Religion, by Ministers of Glasgow.*" It is our object to give not so much a formal criticism on these Lectures, as an outline of the arguments which they contain, with a few incidental remarks of our own on the various departments of the evidence which they discuss. And we hope in this way to bring the important subject of the evidences of christianity before our readers in a manner that may interest and profit them.

The Lecture before us treats of the genuineness and authenticity of those records in which revelation is contained. And this is obviously an essential part of the proof of the truth of revealed religion. For though it be quite conceivable, that revelation might have been given to man with-

out a written record—as indeed for a long period in the history of the world, the early communications which God made to man were left to oral tradition—it is certain, that the revelations which he has designed for the permanent instruction of the world have been committed to writing, and all our direct knowledge of those revelations is to be derived from this writing. The Bible claims to be the only authorized record of divine revelation: and revelation must stand or fall with it. If infidels could prove that it is a forgery—a spurious book, the authorship of which has been falsely attributed to the men whose names its various parts bear, or that it is a collection of fables, framed by artful and wicked men—then indeed would they have their triumph; and christianity would fall to be numbered with the many plausible impostures which have in almost every age or nation, mocked and cheated wretched man's aspirations towards immortality. But every effort to impugn the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible has been, and must be utterly vain. When God speaks to men, it is in no ambiguous voice. And he has well provided that the record of those special communications made by him "at sundry times and in divers manners" to chosen individuals of our race, shall not be undistinguished from the writings of impostors.