

testant Religion; not indeed that You may be contentious, or give causeless offence by unnecessarily introducing disputes, which seldom do any good, and may be productive of bad effects: But that You may be able to give an answer to every man that asketh You a reason for the hope that is in You, with meekness and fear.* Our language abounds with excellent treatises on the subject; and I would just observe farther, that next to the Holy Scriptures, there are perhaps no books better calculated to confirm a protestant of the Church of England in his principles, than the writings of the primitive Fathers of the first four Centuries; which You would do well to consult, so far as Your situation and circumstances will admit.

WHETHER infidelity has made any advances in these parts, I know not. Considering how flattering it is to the pride, and how indulgent to the corruptions, of human nature, there is reason to apprehend

* I. Peter III. 15. —“ Indeed *this* is not a season for internal controversies, while Moses, and JESUS CHRIST, and even the FIRST CAUSE, are assailed with a boldness which will astonish the nineteenth century, should it prove more virtuous and learned than the eighteenth.” See *An inquiry into the secondary causes which Mr. Gibbons has assigned for the rapid growth of Christianity*. By Sir DAVID DALRYMPLE, p. 191. Edit. Edinburgh, 1786. 4to. — a work which abounds in good learning; applied with judgment and temper; and from which the Historian of the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* may derive many useful hints to improve a future edition of his History.