

## PREFACE.

THE existing state of doubt as to the true value to be attached to what geology and some of the other inductive sciences teach us, or at least profess to teach us, about the "Beginning of Things," and the assumption by the "Higher Criticism" school of thought, which in modern times has sprung into existence, to found a new system of Biblical exegesis, led the writer, some two years ago, to commence an exhaustive examination of the various issues involved. As his investigations progressed a large number of deeply interesting problems, in different departments of human knowledge, presented themselves for consideration. The result was, that he finally came to the conclusion that a brief review of these problems, from a popular standpoint, could scarcely fail to be at once interesting and useful to that large class of persons whose business or other avocations preclude them from making, for themselves, the necessarily extensive researches which the wide nature of the subject demands. He is not writing, by any means, for the benefit of the professional specialist, nor for the very learned classes otherwise; but for those worthy everyday people who, while always desirous of acquiring useful information, make common-sense their guiding principle, not only in dealing with questions that arise out of the more important incidents of ordinary life, but also as regards those questions which affect their moral and religious welfare.