

PREFACE.

THIS little volume is of humble pretensions. It *aims* to lay the foundations of a firm belief in the Christian religion, and in particular to furnish young people with the chief grounds of their faith.

Compendiums of infidelity and false doctrine are circulating through every class of community, especially among our youth, and thousands are thereby being drawn into fatal snares.

Such hostile attempts should be met with publications calculated to fortify the youthful mind, by concise and plain statements of the principal arguments in favour of Christianity.

Many excellent treatises of this kind have already been published ; yet it is obvious there is something wanting on this subject that is shorter, cheaper, and in a more familiar form.

With this view, the author's chief object has been to collect together, and compress in a narrow compass, the most forcible arguments which are to be found in our best writers, with such additional remarks of his own as might be found necessary.

To these writers this little work is, therefore, much indebted ; and its author would here, once for all, tender to each of them his frank acknowledgments.

The work is designed principally for the instruction of youth ; yet, considered as a kind of recapitulation of the evidences, doctrines, and