

ESSAY I.

with the sole view of mutually discovering and commending religious truths. We remark that you say in your first letter to Dr. Sturges: "Should I have occasion to make another reply to you, I will try if it be not possible to put the whole question at issue between us into such a shape, as shall remove the danger of irritation on both sides, and still enable us, if we are mutually so disposed, to agree together in the acknowledgment of the same religious truths." If you still think that this is possible, for God's sake and your neighbours' also, delay not to undertake it. The plan embraces every advantage we wish for, and excludes every evil we deprecate. You shall manage the discussion in your own way, and we will give you a little interruption as possible. Two of the essays above alluded to, with which our worthy rector lately furnished us, with your permission I enclose, to convince you that genius and sacred literature are cultivated around the Wrekin, and on the banks of the Severn. I remain, reverend sir, with great respect, your faithful and obedient servant,
JAMES BROWN.

ESSAY I.

ON THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, AND OF NATURAL RELIGION.

By the Rev. SAMUEL CAREY, LL. D.

FORBEEING that my health will not permit me, for a considerable time, to meet my expected friends at New Cottage, I comply with the request which several of them have made me, in sending them in writing my ideas on the two noblest subjects which can occupy the mind of man: *The Existence of God, and the Truth of Christianity*. In doing this, I profess not to make new discoveries, but barely to state certain arguments which I collected in my youth from the learned Hugo Grotius, our own judicious Clark, and other advocates of natural and revealed religion. I offer no apology for adopting the words of scripture, in arguing with persons who are supposed not to admit its authority, when these express my meaning as fully as any others can do.

The first argument for the existence of God is thus expressed by the royal prophet: *Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that made us, and not we ourselves.* Ps. ciii. In fact, when I ask myself that question, which every reflecting man must sometimes ask himself, *How came I into the*