

afforded young persons as in the present, neither were so many excellent books in general circulation. Mr. Drew had access to a periodical, called the "Weekly Entertainer," and derived much profit from its perusal. His improvement soon excited the attention of his acquaintances, and they discovered in him evident marks of a superior intellect.

A young gentleman who had espoused infidel opinions, from the study of Paine's *Age of Reason*, put that pernicious book into the hands of Mr. Drew, on the conditions, that, he would read it, and give his thoughts concerning its principles. With these conditions he complied, and finding that it contained much false reasoning, calculated to injure minds not well established in the truth, he prepared an answer to it; which was published in 1799. This was his first publication, and perhaps would have been his last, but for the notice taken of it by the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, a Clergyman of the Established Church. This gentleman possessed much moral and intellectual worth, and thought it not derogatory to him to encourage a young man of talent, although not moving in his circle, or connected with his church.

For some years after the expiration of his apprenticeship, Mr. Drew laboured at his trade as a journeyman: after which, he commenced business on his own account. During this period, his leisure hours—if such they might be called—were spent in close study; but his literary pursuits were not allowed to interfere with his other avocations, for he found industry essential to the support of his rising family, and his advance and establishment in life. Mr. Drew was involved in the common portion of humanity, and soon found his share of the troubles and trials of a world of sorrow; yet amid all his difficulties his thirst for knowledge was not quenched, nor its pursuit at all neglected.

To excel in the literary or scientific world, Mr. Drew thought it necessary to turn his attention undividedly to some particular branch; and after mature deliberation metaphysics became the object of his choice. Perhaps the mind of Drew was equal for any science, but his choice seems to have been made judiciously; as a metaphysician he stands on a proud eminence, and his works