

## P R E F A C E.

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THE FOLLOWING TREATISE, though complete by itself, was originally designed to form a part of a more varied and extended work; and it is to this circumstance that it owes both its existence and its form. I have long thought that the leading events recorded and foretold in the Sacred Scriptures, by being all exhibited as parts of a whole, and having their relation to a common object pointed out, would be placed in a far more interesting and instructive light, than that in which it is possible for them to appear as isolated occurrences; and for many years I have felt an increasing desire to attempt it. A comprehensive, connected, and scientific view of these events, if properly executed, would render an important service to Religion, by silencing many of the cavils of the Infidel, and solving some of the greatest difficulties which perplex the mind of the inquisitive Christian. To execute such a work properly, would require a greater command of time than I have at my disposal, and the possession of talents beyond what I can pretend to; and under these circumstances it may be the wiser course to call the attention of others to it, who are better qualified to do it justice. At the same time, as the following Treatise contains my views in regard to the physical history of the earth, a highly important department of the work—as many of these views are new—as I believe them to be just, and as the Treatise is a specimen of what the Work would be were