

## ANALYSIS OF INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATION. Life as a building. Its physical basis. Is there any other? Christ and His words. "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine" [pp. 1, 2].

The Christian *life* the best evidence; but other evidences valuable and necessary, especially in these times [pp. 3, 4].

Advantages of opponents: (*a*) so easy to object; (*b*) objections generally appeal to ignorance; (*c*) evidences of Christianity cumulative, so that extensive knowledge is needed fully to appreciate them [pp. 4, 5].

THE OBJECT STATED [p. 5].

*Preliminary Cautions* :—

1. *Expect moral, not mathematical demonstration.* Mathematical demonstration applies only to propositions. Distinction between mathematical and moral certainty. All our substantial beliefs founded on moral certainty [pp. 6, 7].

2. *Do not expect to solve all difficulties.* No difficulties in a mathematical demonstration; why not? Many difficulties in the field of our subject: why? But it is enough to have sufficient positive evidence [pp. 7, 8].

3. *Carefully distinguish links and strands of evidence.* The Christian evidences not a mere chain of *links*. They often run parallel, and form a cable of many *strands*. Extraordinary strength of strands of evidence illustrated [pp. 8-10].

4. *Be careful of the order.* Folly of trying to make foundation of that which is near the top. The three main stages: God, Christ, the Bible [pp. 10, 11].

PLAN OF THE TREATISE. In first stage, Bible not used at all. In second, Bible referred to, but only as history, and dealt with as an ordinary historical book. Not till third stage can important subject of Inspiration be properly reached [pp. 11, 12].

Knowledge of evidences not necessary to personal experience [p. 12].

The spirit in which such an enquiry should be prosecuted: humility, reverence, earnestness [p. 13].