

THE CANADIAN

CHRISTIAN EXAMINER,

AND

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

NUMBER 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1838.

VOLUME 2.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

REVIEW.

EVIDENCES OF REVEALED RELIGION, BY A NUMBER OF
THE MINISTERS OF GLASGOW.

LECTURE I.

THE NECESSITY FOR A DIVINE REVELATION, AND THE OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EXAMINING ITS CLAIMS.

By the Rev. John G. Lorimer, Minister of St. David's Church, Glasgow.

Since the days of Grotius to our own, many powerful minds have been engaged in explaining and illustrating the evidences of revealed religion. Some pious people considering that infidelity can be conquered only by the direct exhibition of divine truth to the understanding and the heart, have thought that an undue attention has been bestowed on this department of theology. We, however, are far from thinking that this has been the case. It is readily granted that the manifestation of the character of God which has been made in the gospel, can alone convert and save the soul; yet, nevertheless, the study of the evidences of the truth of the Gospel is directly fitted to bring infidels to attend to it, and acknowledge it as a message from God. It is well fitted, also, to enable the young to resist those temptations to infidelity with which

they may be beset from the conversation or writings of corrupt men.

But, though in our estimation, too many writers have not been employed on the evidences, we are yet free to acknowledge our conviction, that these have often been exhibited in a very imperfect way.

The subject is exceedingly vast; it embraces all the relations and harmonies which subsist between the plan of redemption in itself, its gradual publication and its permanent records and institutions on the one hand; and the moral nature and history of man on the other. Now, one defect in many treatises on the evidences of revelation, as we humbly think, is—not that they do not discuss the whole body of the evidence, but that while they take up some part of it, such as that which authenticates the original publication of christianity—miracles and prophecy, they treat of these as though they constituted the whole or the principal part of the evidence which is far from being the case.

It may be sufficient in the trial of a criminal in a court of law, to select one out of the many charges which lie against him and to substantiate