

God's word. The first, and perhaps the best method to stop the progress of scepticism is to give a clear exhibition of the truth as revealed in the New Testament. Nearly all the arguments at present used to undermine our faith in the Christian Religion are rather against the corruptions of the glorious system of salvation than against the system itself. If, then, we would be useful to every class in the community we should set ourselves to work to get perfectly familiar with every thing contained in the christian scriptures. We ask for the following a careful reading.

W. W. E.

#### HINTS TO READERS.—BY ALEX. CAMPBELL.

It has been often noticed, that the grand laws of the natural world, the fundamental principles of the philosophy of nature, are few and simple; that all sciences predicated upon God's works are reducible to a few leading or general principles. The same may be said of the grandest of all systems, of the noblest of all sciences—God's own system of virtue, and his own science of happiness.

All the law and all the prophets were founded upon *two* general principles, according to the reasoning of the Author of the Christian religion. In the estimation of the same person, the whole Christian religion is based upon *one* fact. But this fact is of such an astonishing nature that it affects both heaven and earth. Its meaning is every thing that regulates, or, it is the very principle upon which is founded the moral government of the world. It affects the government of God over all men, and the cheerful and acceptable allegiance of any part of them. It is, to the moral system and to the moral empire, every thing that the sun is to the solar system and to the globe which we inhabit. It is the centre around which all gracious and pure affections in human hearts revolve, and it is the source of light and life to a benighted and dying world. It attracts to itself every happy eye in the universe, and draws to itself every pious emotion in every human breast. The eyes of all saints, in all lands, are gladdened by its light; and the hearts of all are cheered and warmed by its vivifying powers. That the Christian religion should be based upon such a fact is every way worthy of its Author, and exhibits it, to the rational mind, as altogether glorious and divine.

When one question of fact is answered in the affirmative, the way to happiness is laid open, and all doubts on the nature of true piety and humanity are dissipated. The question is one, which the following histories alone can answer. The fact is a historic one, and this question is of the same nature. It is this—*Was Jesus the Nazarene, the Son and Apostle of God?* This question is capable of being converted into various forms, such as—Are the subsequent narratives true? Did Jesus actually and literally rise from the dead after being crucified and interred? Did he ascend into heaven in the presence of his disciples? Is he constituted the Judge of the living and the dead? Or, Was he an impostor and a deceiver of men? It may be proposed in many a form; but it is still a unit, and amounts to this—*Is Jesus the Nazarene, the Son of God, the Apostle of the Father, the Saviour of men?* When this question is answered in the affirmative, our duty, our salvation, and our happiness are ascertained and determined.