

INTRODUCTION.



MORE than fifty years have passed away since the religious world first read with avidity a work issued anonymously by one of the first publishing houses in London, with the title of "No Fiction," originally sent out in two 8vo. volumes. Its construction and style being clever and fascinating, it assisted in the cherishing of what the old Puritan Fathers would say "did not minister to serious godliness," for it rested solely for its success upon undiluted fiction. This kind of writing has not diminished as the age of the world has advanced, for, notwithstanding the realms of truth and beauty are inexhaustible to human investigation, we have amongst us the religiously imaginative, who think they can allure the wayward tendency of men, who neglect the weighty interests of eternity, to the paths of faith and obedience, by highly wrought descriptions of what they believe might occur, under the garb of what they would have the world to believe has really been practically exhibited in the history of persons who have existed only in their imaginations.