

**ALPHABET OF NATURAL  
THEOLOGY, FOR THE  
USE OF BEGINNERS**

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Alphabet of Natural Theology, for the Use of Beginners by James Rennie

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**JAMES RENNIE**

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## PLAN OF THE WORK.

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As there can be no doubt of the extensive diffusion of Atheism, chiefly in a concealed and insidious form, in works where it ought least to be expected, it was deemed advisable to take up the proofs of the existence of God in a way so brief and at the same time as far as possible so comprehensive and plain, that those who might not like to encounter the larger works of Paley and Crombie, or the Bridgewater Treatises, should be induced to spend a few spare hours in learning something of the subject. Great care has accordingly been taken to condense into a small compass the outlines of interesting discussions which are scattered through many volumes of no little magnitude, and only those who have tried it, can know the difficulty that such a task involves.

Most authors who have written on Natural Theology, confine their line of argument to one main point, and either leave others altogether out of consideration, or pass slightly over them. Dr. Clarke, for example, confines himself wholly to metaphysical reasoning; Dr. Crombie seems somewhat inclined to do the same, though he has briefly dipped into the argument from design in the works of creation, while Dr. Paley confines himself almost entirely to the argument from design, and takes but slight notice of speculative reasonings. On the contrary, it has been the aim of the author of this little volume to give to each of these modes of reasoning its due proportion, and consequently to take up in succession all parts of the subject. That