
THE
MONTHLY REPOSITORY
OF
Theology and General Literature.

K Periodical Publications

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OF
THEOLOGY
AND
GENERAL LITERATURE.

POPULUMQUE FALSIS
DEDOCET UTI
VOCIBUS. *Hor.*

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, INCLUSIVE.

1806.

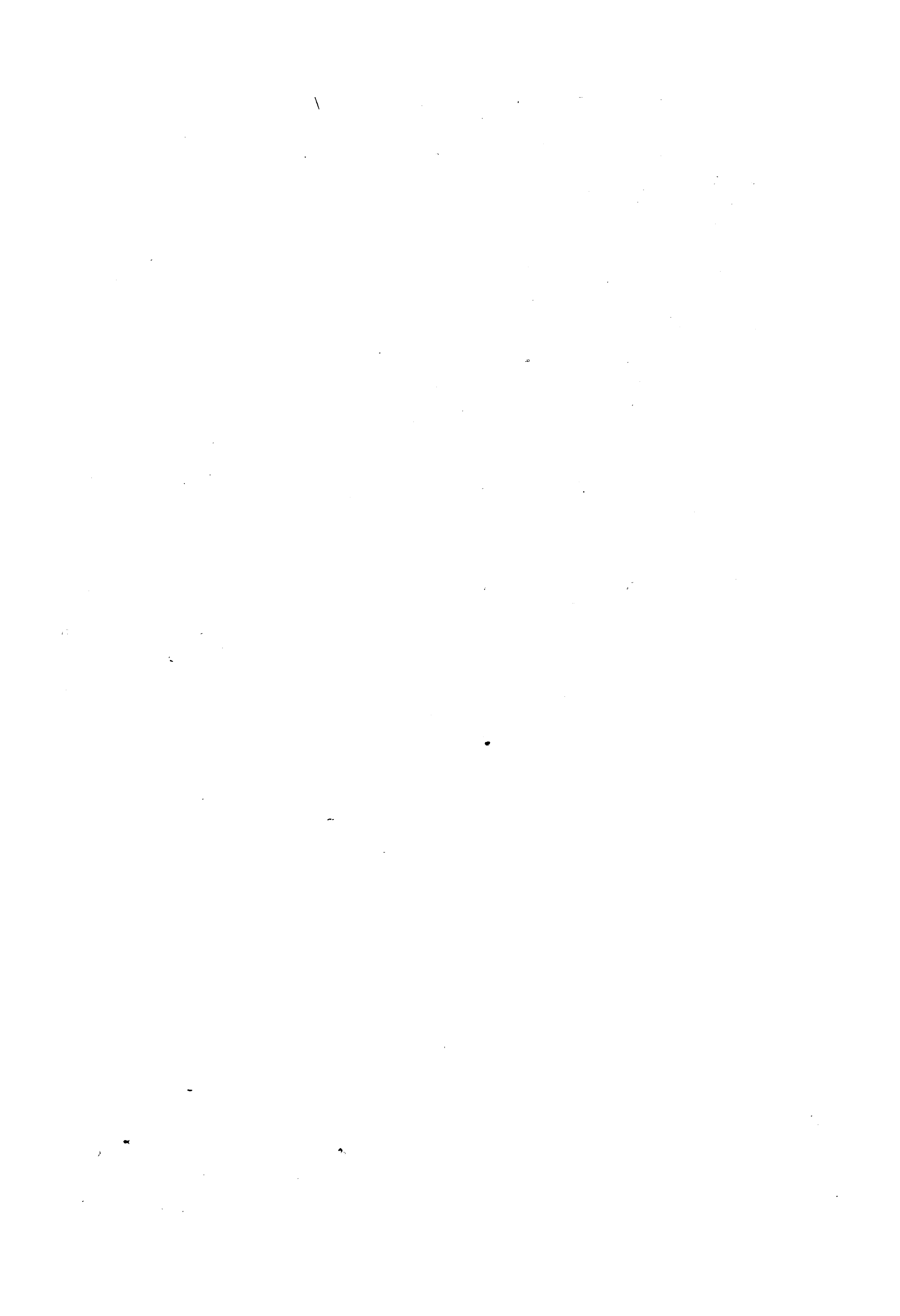
VOLUME I.

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PREFACE.

ONE volume of the Monthly Repository is now before the public. The gradually increasing sale of the latter numbers is a proof that their opinion is in its favour. This circumstance encourages the Editor to proceed in the work with undiminished zeal, and also to project some improvements in it which will render it, he trusts, still more worthy of the public patronage. An important department of it is undertaken by a gentleman, whose name—which the Editor regrets he is not at liberty to publish—would do honour to any cause, and serve as a recommendation to any literary work.

The plan of the Monthly Repository, uniting as much as possible of General Literature with Theology, has met with decided approbation from the Editor's literary friends; but it must be obvious to every one, that this plan cannot be carried into effect without the active concurrence and support of men of learning and talents. Their assistance is therefore most earnestly solicited.

On one ground, especially, the Monthly Repository lays claim to the support of the liberal and enlight-

ened part of the public, and on this ground the Editor is willing to rest its merits—namely, its being the only periodical publication which is open to FREE AND IMPARTIAL THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY AND DISCUSSION. This honourable peculiarity it shall never forfeit ; and while it retains this character, no one, surely, can be indifferent to its success, who values truth, and who believes that Christianity, as a true system of faith, is founded upon reason, and gains by public examination. The rapid increase of the friends of Rational Religion, is a sure pledge that a periodical work which is alone devoted to Free Inquiry will not fail for want of support.

As there may be some individuals personally unknown to the Editor, who are desirous of serving the Monthly Repository, he begs leave to state, that they may effectually assist it by literary and theological communications—the communication in particular of articles of *Intelligence* and *Obituary*; and likewise by favouring it with *Advertisements*, of which there are many sorts that would appear with greater advantage in this than in any other monthly publication, and which are, it is well known, one of the main supports of periodical works. This latter suggestion would not be hazarded, were any private interests involved in the Monthly Repository ; but it being taken up and conducted on public principles, that which in any other case delicacy would require the writer of this Preface to forbear, a sense of duty, in this, emboldens him to state. In proportion to the success of the work will be the ability of the Editor to make it respectable and satisfactory.

One of the means adopted for improving the Magazine, is the appointment of new publishers, of well-known activity and considerable influence.

The Index to the present volume is compiled by the careful hand of a friend, whose communications have contributed to enrich it.

It was intended, as was proposed in the *Prospectus*, to annex to each volume an annual Retrospect of Theology; but it was found, on looking over the numbers, that the subjects of a Retrospect had been already anticipated. If, therefore, any subscriber feel disappointment at its omission, he will perhaps be ready to do the Editor the justice to admit that the copiousness of the monthly intelligence has surpassed his expectations.

In committing the first volume of the Monthly Repository to the world, the Editor cannot refrain from expressing a hope that this, together with the succeeding volumes of the work, will be accounted, like the *Theological Repository*, edited by the venerable Dr. PRIESTLEY, a valuable part of a theological library; and be consulted in time to come as a collection of sound argument and rational criticism, as well as of authentic biography and interesting intelligence.

Hackney, Dec. 26, 1806.

