

## INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

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IF we were introduced into a stately edifice, we could not refrain from examining its structure and contents. We might not be qualified to pronounce a well-instructed judgment on any of all its constituent parts—to compare with the best models of art, or test by an ideal standard of excellence, the form of its pillars, or the texture of its tapestry. But we would not be deterred, on that account, from looking around us, and endeavouring to ascertain the age, the plan, the size, and uses of the building. If we saw much that we admired, our admiration would not rest in the material objects by which it was immediately occasioned, but would pass to that master-mind, in whose creative conception the structure arose, and completed its fair proportions and symmetry, before a stone of it was laid, or the perception of sense could discover its existence.