appeared to the Indians of North America.'

'Why not to them as well as to all others?'

'If it had appeared to them,' said the king, 'they would hardly have treated my subjects so barbarously as they have done.'

'That is no proof to the contrary, friend Charles. Thy subjects were the aggressors When thy subjects first went to North America, they found these poor people the fondest and kindest creatures in the world. Every day they would watch for them to come ashore and hasten to meet them, and feast them on their best fish and venison and corn, which was all that they had. In return for this hospitality of the *savages*, as we call them, thy subjects termed *Christians*, seized on their country and rich hunting grounds, for farms for themselves! Now is it to be wondered at, that these much injured people should have been driven to desperation by such injustice: and that, burning with revenge, they should have comitted some excesses?'

'Well, then, I hope, friend William, you will not complain when they come to treat you in the same manner.'

'I am not afraid of it,' said Penn.

'Aye! how will you avoid it? you mean to get their hunting grounds too, I suppose?'

'Yes, but not by driving the poor people away from them.'

'No, indeed! How then will you get their lands!'

'I mean to buy their lands of them.'

'Buy their lands of them! why man you have already bought them of me.'

'Yes I know I have, and at a dear rate too; but I did it only to get thy good will, not that I thought that thou hadest any right to their lands.'

'Zounds, man! no right to their lands!'

'No, friend Charles, no right at all:—What right hadst thou to their lands?'

'Why, the right of *discovery*; the right which the Pope and all Christian Kings have agreed to give one another.'

'The right of discovery! a strange kind of right indeed. Now suppose, friend Charles, some canoe loads of these Indians crossing the sea, and discovering the Island of Great Britain, were to claim it as their own, and set it up for sale over thy head, what wouldest thou think of it?'

'Why—why—why,' replied Charles, 'I must confess I should think it a piece of great impudence in them.'

'Well then, how canst thou, a *christian* and a *christian prince* too, do that which thou so utterly condemnest in these people whom thou callest *savages*? Yes friend Charles, and suppose again that these Indians on thy refusal to give up thy Islands of Great Britain, were to make war on thee, and having weapons more destructive than thine, were to destroy many of thy subjects, and to drive the rest away, wouldst thou not think it horrible cruel?'

The king assenting to this with strong marks of conviction, William proceeded—'Well then, friend Charles, how can I, who call myself a Christian, do what I should abhor even of the Indians themselves No, no, I shall not do so; I shall buy their lands and pay them for them, and instruct them in theirduty to God and one another. By doing this, I shall imitate God himself, in his justice and mercy, and thereby insure his blessing on my colony, if I should ever live to plant one in North America.

PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS.

THE PLANETS.

"First Mercury completes his transient year,
Glowing refulgent, with reflected glare;
Bright Venus occupies a wider way,
The early harbinger of night and day;
Mere distant still our globe terraqueous turns,
Nor chills intense, nor fiercely heated burns;
Around her rolls the lunar orb of light,
Trading her silver glories through the night:
Beyond our globe the sanguine Mars displays
A strong reflection of primeval rays;
Next bolted Jupiter far distant gleams,
Scarcely enlighten'd with the solar beams;
With four unfix'd receptacles of light
He tow'rs majestic through the spacious height;
But further yet the tardy Saturn lags,
And seven attendant luminaries drags;
Investing with a double ring his pace,
He circles through immensity of space."

The planets, or wandering stars, are so called in distinction from other stars that appear comparatively fixed; of the latter, a far greater number is visible to us.

We are not to conclude from the appellation that distinguishes them, that their motions are ill-directed and wild: the greatest regularity characterizes their revolutions, and, in proportion as we become acquainted with them, shall we allow with Addison,

"In reason's ear, they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice:
Forever singing as they shine,
The hand that made us is divine."

To identify these stars, and render intelligible the observations of different astronomers concerning them, it became necessary that they should receive names. These have generally been borrowed from the mythology of the ancients; and though it is probable were they now to be thus distinguished, other names would be found for them, these answer all the purposes for which they were given.

Proceeding from the Sun, we first meet with Mercury, the nearest planet to that great source of illumination, which astronomers have yet been able to discover. Its diameter is about 3224 miles; its distance from the sun about 37,000,000 of miles, around which it occupies but about 84 days in revolving, travelling at the rate of more than 100,000 miles in an hour. This rapidity of motion induced the ancients to name it after the nimble messenger of their pretended gods. The vicinage of this planet to the sun must cause a much hotter climate than our summers afford, and indeed than the earth itself could endure; and being lost in the solar brightness, it is seldom seen by us. Astronomers have therefore had but few opportunities of accurate observation, and the time of its rotation on its axis, the inclination of its axis to its orbit, &c. are unknown. When it is seen on the sun's disc, it is called its transit.

Venus, the next in the system, is the brightest and largest to *appearance* of all the planets. It is usually called the morning or evening star according as it precedes or follows the apparent course of the sun. Its diameter is about 7867 miles. Some have thought they could observe spots on its disc, and have supposed its rotation on its axis to be performed in 23 hours and 21 minutes. Its light and heat received from the sun must be double those of the earth. It is 68 millions of miles from the great luminary, and performs its annual journey round him in 224 days, 16 hours, and 49 minutes, advancing at the rate of 80,995 miles in an hour. When viewed through a telescope, being an inferior planet, she is rarely seen full, but waxing or waning like the moon.

The Earth follows Venus, * * * Next to the Earth we find Mars, which, with those that follow, are denominated *superior* planets their orbits inclosing that of the Earth. The planet is of a reddish colour. Its distance from the sun is about 144 millions of miles. It occupies 687 of our days in making its annual journey, and consequently, proceeds at the rate of 55 thousand miles in an hour. Its diurnal rotation on its axis is in 24 hours and 39 minutes its diameter 4189 miles. The analogy between it and our planet is considerable; their diurnal motions are nearly the same; the obliquities their ecliptics not very different. The earth thought to appear to the inhabitants of Mars about the size of Venus, and never above degrees from the sun, and is to them by turns morning and evening star.

Proceeding still further from the sun, meet with Ceres, Pallas, Juno, and Vesta, which have been discovered during the present century and have been called asteroids, being much smaller than any of the planets.

Jupiter succeeds, the largest planet yet seen being nearly a thousand times larger than the Earth. It is situated at the distance of about 490 millions of miles from the sun. Its diameter 89,170 miles. Its annual circuit round the sun is performed in 11 of our years 314 days, and 12 hours, moving at the rate of 29,000 miles in an hour. It has also a daily rotation on its axis in nearly 10 hours, so that a year contains 10,470 days. Turning thus swiftly on its axis, its figure is more oblate than that of the earth, being more than six thousand miles longer in its equatorial than in its polar diameter this rapidity of motion also draws its clouds or vapours into lines over its equatorial parts, forming what we call its zones, or belts. Four satellites revolve about it in different times, some which are nearly as large as the earth.

At the great distance of 900 millions of miles from the sun, Saturn shines with a pale light till lately deemed the most remote planet in our system. It pursues its orbit at the rate of 22,000 miles an hour, which it completes in 29 1-2 our years. Its diameter is found to be 79,000 miles. It revolves on its axis in about ten hours and a quarter, which is perpendicular to the plane of its ring, and its body is surrounded with belts, like those of Jupiter. This ring surrounds it circularly, but has an eliptical appearance being viewed obliquely. It casts a shadow on the planet, and is divided into two parts by a line in the middle of its breadth. It is moreover thin and luminous, the breadth of the inner ring is considered to be about 20,000, and that of the outer 7,200 miles. In addition to these rings which give it a most unique appearance, and doubtless contribute to reflect luminous rays on its surface, it is blessed with seven satellites which, considering its distance from the source of light, attest the mindfulness of God.

On the 13th of March, 1781, was discovered a still more remote planet, called by the discoverer Georgium Sidus, in honour of our beloved King, but by astronomers in general after its observer's name, Herschel. The distance of this planet from the sun has been estimated at 1800 millions of miles. The time of its annual re-