

The Wonders of the Heavens.

"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord, God, Almighty."

THE PLANET SATURN.—We have given on the adjoining page a very accurate and beautiful delineation of this stupendous celestial structure, believing that it will be interesting to our readers, and may induce the young particularly to desire to know more of the wonderful works of God. Of the eight Planets and four Asteroids which form our planetary system, Saturn, with its double rings and seven moons, is perhaps the most magnificent and interesting. This body appears to the eye as one of the stars; but viewed through a good Telescope presents the appearance exhibited by the engraving. This Globe—79,000 miles in diameter, presents a surface equal to 6000 times the surface of this world, and revolves on an axis perpendicular to the plane of its Rings in 10 hours, 16 minutes, 19 seconds. It is 906 millions of miles from the Sun, round which it revolves in $29\frac{1}{2}$ years, moving at the rate of 22,000 miles an hour:—a motion so swift that a cannon ball passing through space at the rate of 500 miles an hour, would require about 1,300 years to accomplish the same vast journey!

This Globe is encompassed with two stupendous eccentric Rings, and is attended by Seven Moons. The Rings revolve round it in $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours, moving about 1000 miles per minute. The outside diameter of the exterior ring (see figure III a. d.) is 204,800 miles:—that of the interior, b, is 184,400 miles: the breadth of the outer ring is 7,200 miles—the inner 20,000 miles:—the space between them 2839 miles:—and this is evidently open, for stars have been seen through it. The nearest edge of the inner ring is 30,000 miles from the planet. Both rings are solid bodies about 100 miles thick, and present a surface equal to 10,000 worlds like ours! The sun shines steadily for 14 years and 9 months on one side of the rings, and then leaves it and shines as long on the other. Viewed from the surface of the planet the scene must be surpassingly grand. (See figure I.) Two luminous arches will always be seen stretching from east to west across the heavens, and moving with such rapidity, that any point will pass from the horizon to the zenith in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. During the day they will present a faint cloudy arch, but at night will shine with great brilliancy, reflecting the sun's rays like our moon. The distance being only $\frac{1}{4}$ th the distance of our moon from the earth the varied scenery upon the rings might be distinctly seen by the inhabitant of Saturn with a good telescope.—The shadow of the planet will always be seen upon the rings after sunset, beginning at the east and passing on to the west, when it will disappear at sunrise. In the engraving No. I. c. d. the shadow is represented as it appears at midnight. The arch A. B. is intended to represent the surface of the planet, whence the beholder views the scene we have been describing, with the starry firmament and the seven moons in their different phases. The distance of Saturn from the Sun being $9\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than from the Sun to the Earth, the light from it is necessarily greatly diminished, and is also often partially obscured by the rings, as represented at e. f. g. h.—The engraving No. II. represents the various appearances of the planet as seen from our Earth during its revolution round the Sun.—In 1847, its rings became almost invisible as at No. 2: in 1848 they will wholly disappear as at No. 1; but afterwards, as it threads its mighty pathway around the Great Luminary, it will present the various gradations, as seen in the cut, from No. 3 to No. 6 when at the last, both rings appear separate and distinct.

This Globe and its Rings, we have reason to believe, were created by Almighty God—the God of Love—to be the dwelling-place of millions of millions of intelligent beings. Omnipotence creates nothing in vain. Do you doubt the foregoing computations concerning this bright and beautiful speck in the Heavens?—remember that they are the result of the same observations, and the same reckoning, which tells the rising and setting of the Sun, and which determines our annual eclipses with the precision of a second.—There are other worlds and other states of existence besides our own. You and I are invited to enter one of them after we die,—one where there shall be *no sin—no sorrow—no sickness—no pain—no death—FOR EVER*. God's word, **THE BIBLE**, assures us of this, and invites us to follow our Redeemer to the celestial habitation. You ask, perhaps, "Shall I, a poor degraded, unworthy sinner against God, be permitted to hope for such happiness and honour?" I answer, Yes; for Jesus Christ came into the world expressly to save sinners: that is, having died for all, he desires now to save all from sin who live, and thus to fit them for a pure and an eternal existence. The Saviour declares the glad tidings to you and me:—*read his words for yourself—John iii. 16.*—What then, you ask, is the duty of all who sincerely believe the testimony of Christ? "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" is His own testimony, (see Mark xvi. 16) and it accords with His own holy example. (See Mark i. 9, 10.) Follow therefore His example and advice: deny yourself to every thing