

We shall now observe respecting the belief (expressed by the *Athenæum*) that there are things between heaven and earth yet undreamt of in our philosophy. In the sixth edition of our *System of Creation* we have expressed our belief that there must be elaboratories of gases in some part of the regions of space, to produce the tails of the comets for supplying the suns of the universe with heat and light. If therefore this part of our system shall be hereafter confirmed by the astronomers, we shall have at least a claim to the first suggestion; and we shall conclude the eighth edition of our work, with repeating our observation that the science of astronomy, by its modern advancement and its future progress, is powerfully calculated to bring the minds of men in closer contact with, and knowledge of their Creator; and that man having been permitted and endowed by him with the means of exploring these wonders of his creation, he will not disappoint him in the promises given in the holy writings, of a nearer and more complete inspection of them in a future state.

In conclusion, the vast discoveries of astronomy appear to me to be designed by nature to lead man to the contemplated expectation of a future state of existence. How is it possible to believe that Providence should present to his observation and study so vast a universe of worlds, and yet deny him the future contemplation of their glories. Yes, the soul of man in its perfection, is part of the vitality of God himself; it must therefore

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stars, not with a cold rod, but with a waving torch. He never 'doubts that the stars are fire'—no immeasurable icebergs they, floating in frozen air, but glowing, burning, almost living orbs; and his words glow, burn, and nearly start from the page in unison." In this point then Nichol agrees with Newton and with our theory. that the stars, now called suns of other systems, are bodies of fire.