

further, and he saw what? the sun—and so he bows in adoration to the glorious object; but Reason whispers not he who created those created this. Then let us turn to the Greek, with all his boasted wisdom, learning and refinement. What are the character and attributes of his numerous gods—Revenge, Malice, Envy, Lust, Debauchery, whatsoever is odious in the sight of good men and hurtful to society, was said to be patronised by them. What was the Grecian's hope in death? to wander a discontented ghost in stygian gloom; and this was reason's master piece! this is her most glorious achievement! hide your eyes, ye advocates of unaided reason, confess her inadequacy to convey to man a correct knowledge of God. But lest this should not suffice, let us contemplate those of our own day who have not received a divine revelation; view the idol Juggernaut—behold the horrors attendant on the worship of this god of reason—see its deluded worshippers cast themselves beneath its ponderous wheels, and welcome in their infatuation a cruel death. Hear the testimony of all who have witnessed their religious rites—all agree in declaring that they are of to revolting a nature for repetition; and what does all this prove? what, but that 'man by reason knoweth not God'?

'That there is a God, reason, uninfluenced and suffered to speak out, tells every man; but reason tells not man that he is by sin fallen from God—it tells him not that to rescue him from eternal death the Son of God was veiled in humanity, and offered himself a sacrifice—it tells him not that after death every work shall be brought to judgment and every secret thing, whether it be good or evil. Reason, from the scenes which daily pass before him, may inform him that his body must return to the earth as it was; but it is silent on what is of infinitely greater moment, that his spirit must return to God who gave it. Man may frequently behold virtue its own reward, and vice its own punishment, but he will also often see the wicked flourish like a green bay tree, and the righteous in affliction, and will not be able to reconcile this with infinite justice, until, like one of old, he goes into the sanctuary, and there learns what their end shall be—(Psalm 73, 12-19.)

The works of nature every where bespeak a divine author; but we can no more behold these manifestations without the aid of the

sun of revelation, than we can behold the landscape in the absence of the sun of nature:

A. S. T.

Montreal, Feb. 25, 1836.

ASTRONOMY.

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Contemplated as our grand whole, astronomy is the most beautiful monument of the human mind, the noblest record of its intelligence. Seduced by the illusions of the senses and of self-love, man considered himself, for a long time, as the centre of the motion of the celestial bodies, and his pride was justly punished by the vain terms they inspired. The labours of many ages has at length withdrawn the veil which covered the system. Man appears upon a small planet, almost imperceptible in the vast extent of the solar system, itself only an insensible point in the immensity of space. The immense results to which this discovery has led may console him for the limited place assigned him in the universe. Let us carefully preserve, and even augment, the number of these sublime discoveries, which form the delight of thinking beings. They have rendered important service to navigation and astronomy; but their great benefit has been the having dissipated the alarms occasioned by extraordinary celestial phenomena, and destroyed the errors springing from the ignorance of our real relation with nature—errors so much the more fatal, as social order can only rest on the basis of these relations. Truth, Justice; these are its immutable laws. Far from us be the dangerous maxim, that it is sometimes useful to mislead, to enslave, and to deceive mankind, to ensure their happiness. Cruel experience has at all times proved, that with impunity these sacred laws can never be infringed.

Truth and reason never cause revolutions on the earth; they are the fruit of experience, which can only be exercised when the passions are at rest; they excite not in the heart those furious emotions which speak empires to their base. Truth can only be discovered by peaceful minds; it is only adopted by kindred spirits. If it change the opinions of men, it is only by insensible gradations—a gentle and easy descent conducting them to reason.