

as instruments may be found capable of extending the view deeper into space. The nebula of Orion, though visible to the naked eye, "lies a deep so far away, that its light cannot reach us in less than sixty thousand years after its departure;" yet even this is near, compared with other, for Herschel states that "the rays of light from some remoter nebulae must have been two millions of years on their way." And since the power of Lord Ross's six feet mirror has pierced yet deeper and deeper into space, it has brought some nebulae into view which may be so distant that their light does not reach us in less than thirty millions of years.

Let us only reflect for a moment upon the fact that light travels at the rate of near twelve millions of miles in a minute, and yet objects are so distant that light itself cannot pass from them to our eye in less than a period of thirty millions of years. It must be remembered, too, that as these nebulae are seen in all parts of the heavens, this amazing distance is only the radius of the known universe. We must double it to find the circumference; yet even this is only a sphere of the *known* congregated system. But who can tell how far the beams of light, issuing from them on every side, pierce into the depths of space? How many times shall we have to double the circumference of the whole, to reach the utmost limit to which the flooding starbeams dart? What aids shall imagination call up to stretch its view to the most distant rays set forth with the velocity of twelve millions of miles each minute of time, since the first moment of creation? But hitherto, lost as we are in immensity, we have been contemplating merely those objects which are *visible* through the telescope; yet shall we suppose that our little tubes and mirrors, in this corner of the universe, are capable of sounding the depths of God's creation? Rather let us suppose, as reason and analogy require, that all we have explored and all we can explore, compared with what remains unexplored, are as the sands of an hour glass compared with the stupendous Andes, or the still more stupendous globe itself. This vast universe Jehovah fills with his presence. He resides in every part. His being and consciousness pervade the whole; His intelligence guides, His power preserves, and His presence fills and replenishes the whole. But beyond creation, magnify it as we may—let imagination roam till it is weary with squaring and multiplying all we have yet contemplated—beyond all this there is an infinite amplitude where no planet rolls, no nebula looms, no stray star beam has pierced, no seraph's wing has swept, and no creative fiat has yet reached—an infinite amplitude to which all imaginable creation bears no proportion; yet Jehovah fills the whole—His presence and attributes absolutely fill immensity. "The heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain him."—*William Cooke, D.D.*

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INATTENTION.—When Bishop Aylmer observed his congregation inattentive, he used, it is said, to repeat some verses in the Hebrew Bible, at which the people naturally stared with astonishment. He then addressed them on the folly of eagerly listening to what they did not understand, while they neglected instructions which were readily comprehended.