

through a telescope by light, and placed between the eye-lens and the field-lens there to be viewed. But, above all other considerations, the strangest appearance was that light should bring to my eyes the image of any shadow whatever. If I look at the moon, I behold the different shadows projected by the hills and mountains upon the moon's disc; so long as those shadows are screened from the sun's rays we see them, but, no sooner do they become exposed to the sun than they are obliterated by the sun's brilliancy and rendered invisible by the very same body that we are to consider the faithful bearer of all images to the eyes.

It also appears very strange to me, that modern philosophy should attribute to light a regular progressive motion, sufficiently correct and undeviating as to be used as a standard for several purposes of the greatest nicety, and to lay it down as a rule that its motion is not instantaneous, as the ancients considered it, but that it progresses regularly about 192,000 miles per second.

Appearances so at variance with my understanding, and apparently so with nature, created in me a desire to develop the truth, and unravel the apparent mystery concerning them, and, to accomplish the desired object, I considered it most prudent to consult common nature and begin at the bottom, making sure that, if I could but follow nature through all her intricacies and windings, I should not be led astray.

Thus, taking nature for my guide, I resolved to throw off all prejudices and former impressions that might influence my consideration, and thereby enable myself to look common nature fully in the face. I resolved to com-

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