

Stars; and when examined through powerful telescopes, is found (wonderful to relate!) to consist entirely of Stars scattered by millions, like glittering dust, on the black ground of the general Heavens.

Another remarkable region in the Heavens is the "Zodiac," not from anything peculiar in its own constitution, but from its being the area within which the Sun, Moon, and all the greater Planets are confined. To trace the path of any one of these, it is only necessary to ascertain, by continued observation, its places at successive epochs, and entering these upon a map or sphere in sufficient number to form a series, not too far disjoined to connect them, by lines, from point to point, as the course of a vessel at sea is mapped down from day to day. Now, when this is done, it is found, first, that the apparent path or track of the Sun on the surface of the Heavens, is no other than an exact great circle of the sphere, which is called the Ecliptic, and which is inclined to the Equinoctial at an angle of about $23^{\circ} 28'$, intersecting it at two opposite points called the Equinoctial points, and which are distinguished from each other by the epithets Vernal and Autumnal; the Vernal being that at which the Sun crosses the Equinoctial from S. to N.,—the Autumnal, when it quits the Northern and enters the Southern Hemisphere. Secondly, that the Moon, and all the Planets, pursue paths, which, in like manner, encircle the whole Heavens, but are not, like that of the Sun, great circles, exactly returning into themselves and bisecting the sphere, but rather spiral curves, of much complexity, and described with very unequal velocities in their different paths.

They have all, however, this in common, that the general direction of their motion is the same with that of the Sun, viz., from west to east, that is to say, the contrary to that in which both they and the Stars appear to be carried by the diurnal motion of the Heavens; and, moreover, that they never deviate far from the Ecliptic on either side, crossing and recrossing it at regular and equal intervals of time, and confining themselves within a zone or belt (the Zodiac already spoken of) extending 90° on either side of the Ecliptic.

The apparent complication of their movements arises (that of the Moon excepted) from our viewing them from a station which is itself in motion, and would disappear could we shift our point of view and observe them from the Sun. On the other hand, the apparent motion of the Sun is represented to us under its least involved form, and is studied, from the station we occupy, to the greatest advantage. So that, independent of the importance of that luminary to us in other respects, it is by the investigation of the laws of its motions, in the first instance, that we must rise to a knowledge of those of all the other bodies of our system.

THE AFFECTIONS.

It appears unaccountable that our teachers generally have directed their instructions to the head, with very little attention to the heart. From Aristotle down to Locke, books without number have been composed for cultivating and improving the understanding; but few in proportion, for cultivating and improving the affections.

—Lord Kames.

(From the Odd Fellows' Chronicle.)

AN ATTEMPT TO POURTRAY AND ENJOIN TRUTH.

THE beauty of Truth, and the deformity of Falsehood, have been acknowledged in all ages. However sunk a nation may be in barbarism, or degraded and enfeebled by effeminate refinement, still, even then, will Truth find votaries—will find those, who, elevated by its sustaining power, will brave ridicule, imprisonment, and even death, for its sake. And yet of these two great antagonistic powers, Truth and Falsehood—sources of good and evil—the superior and holier influence of the former over the latter, is but seldom avowed. Indeed, the reign of Truth among us, comparatively speaking, is only in its infancy. For centuries Falsehood held mankind in its powerful sway, manifesting its dominion in a thousand forms; giving a false colouring to the history of a people; tainting its religion with superstition; creating false distinctions in society, that, hallowed by time, were looked upon at last as essential to its well-being; setting limits to the spirit of inquiry, or misdirecting its efforts: and all this while Truth lay concealed in the breast of man, like a treasure hid in a secret place, ready to be revealed by knowledge and intelligence. Our own national records strongly illustrate the pernicious effects of Falsehood, which are unhappily intermingled in various historical events. For example, our traditions of the feudal times *once* represented the people, who were then but slowly emerging from semi-barbarism, as well fed, contented and happy; enjoying the favor of powerful chieftains, who with a strong arm protected the oppressed and defenceless. This belief it was at that period the policy of the rulers of the country to inculcate, that they might the more securely keep their dependents in subjection to their will: as for those dependents—their tenant-serfs—their ill-formed notions of right and wrong, consequent upon their debased condition, made them credulous believers in any dogma, however opposed to reason and truth. The magnificence, too, though rude, in which the barons of old lived, served to strengthen the opinion entertained by the poor of those days, that they were in reality superior creatures, endowed by God with qualities far above the common: hence reverence for wealth and grandeur, not moral worth, became the doctrine of the many; for a long time they suffered patiently and in silence, content if they could procure enough of sustenance to support animal life. If any among his fellows, discerning the truth of the mental and physical degradation which enslaved the community, dared to think and act for himself—if of humble birth, the searcher after Truth too often met with persecution and ignominy for presuming to exercise the noble privilege of thought. The results of such a state of things were evidenced in a belief in the wildest theories. Falsehood, in the doctrine of astrology, taught its votaries that the planets ruled the destinies of mankind; the medicinal art was in a languishing condition, its operations being often entrusted to the illiterate and unskilful; the literature of the country was at a low ebb; oral tradition and the scribes, offered the only medium of communication; and the minds of the multitude were held in thralldom by those who, for selfish purposes, kept them in the darkness of ignorance. But the creative skill of man at length raised up a remedy for the unhealthy state of society: the discovery of printing came to check the career of error and falsehood; and from that epoch has man been progressing. New truths are being expounded every day, and man no longer, as of old, fears to make his discoveries known to the world. The scientific astronomer has assumed the position of the superstitious astrologer: who, to evince that the heaven of falsehood yet lingers among us, exists in the person of the ignorant and often self-deluded fortune-teller. Medicine has its followers in learned and intelligent