





#U"TUM, ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM, NON CIVIUM ARDOR PRAVA JUBENTIUM, HON VULTUS INSTANTIS TYRANNI MENTE QUATIT SOLIDA."

PICTOU, N. S. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1837.

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#### THE BEE

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February 8, 1837

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New Glasgow, 28th Nov. 1936.

From Chambers's Educational Course.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCES.

EXTENT OF THE MATERIAL WORLD .- INWhate-er place we first become aware that we are living beings, the scene which we survey is limited to a very small part of the whole system of Nature-that is, of what exists. If we look beyond the house in which we live, we probably see other houses, or large fields, hills, and plains. If we look upwards, a more extensive view is presented; we there behold a clear blue expanse called the sky, where the sun stimes by day and the moon and stars by night. But even these large plains, and that wide sky, are only a part, and a very small part, of the world. Far beyond the hills which bound our view, there are other plains and and hills, and far beyond the stars which we see by night, there are other stars without number. To acquant young persons with the things beyond the reach of their sight, as well as those things which they cannot readily observe themselves, is the purpose of this book.

Every young person knows what a mile is: it is about as much as he can walk at once without being tired. If he were to walk a few miles from the place where he resides, he would come to other places unite strange to him; and if he were to walk many more miles, he would still come to new places. The parish in which he lives is a few miles in extent, but this parish is but a part of a country, which is again part of a state or kingdom. The state is probably many hundreds of miles long, and some hundreds broad, and it contains so many people, that it is not easy for a child to understand their number. But after all, a state is only a small part of the surface of the earth.

It will seem strange to young persons that they s'and, not on a flat surface, as they would suppose, but upon a globe, shaped somewhat like an orange. Yet this is the fact. The firm earth beneath their feet is nothing else than a large ball-so large, that the small parts of it which we can see, appear quite flat. To make it clear that the carth is round, we may, on a clear day look out from some high ground upon the sea, when we shall see the tops of approaching vessels first appear, and gradulty the lower parts. The earth is about eight thousand miles in thickness, or twenty-four thousand in circumference, and is partly covered by water. The most of the land, as will be seen by reference to a map, in in large pieces called continents; other small pieces of land are called islands, of which England and Scotland are one, and Ireland another. The continents are divided into states, the most of which are occupied by nations, differing from each other in language and manners. The whole number of the people living on the earth is very great. A million is a thousand times a thousand: now there are, altogether, a thousand millions upon the earth.

Although the earth may seem very large and very populous, it is, after all, only the third of a set or class of globes, called planets, eleven in number, which move at different distances in the air, round the sun, and all of which are supposed to be occupied by living beings, and the things necessary for their sustenance. The Moon is a small globe, which moves bed by one person to another. These figures are cal-

in like manner round the earth; and some of the other planets have moons moving round them. The Sun, which gives light and heat to the planets, is a body of vast size-one million three hundred thousand times larger than the earth. The earth is distant from it ninty-five millions of miles, and the eleventh or last of the planets is one thousand eight hundred millions of miles, distant. Young persons cannot well form an idea of the immense space which is occupied by the sun and the eleven planets: it exceeds even the imaginations of fell grown men. But yet this is only a part of nature. Every little star which is seen twinkling in the sky, is a sun like ours, supposed to be surrounded, too, with a similar troop of planets, which like our earth, are the residence of animated creatures.

Though the stars seem near to each other, they are in reality millions of millions of miles distant. Nor do we see all. When we look through a telescope, which is an instrument for bringing within our sight objects two distant to be seen with the naked eye, we discocover many more stars, and always the greater power we give to the telescope, we bring more into view. The number of the stars is indeed beyond all calcul-

What is here stated has been made quite certain by the inquiries of learned men; but it does not yet, apparently, comprehend the whole of nature. Learned men have found some rearons for supposing, that the stars which we see with the naked eye and the telescope, form but one cluster of worlds suspended in immensity of space. Far beyond the bounds of that vast cluster, they have perceived what they think may prove to be similar clusters of worlds, but reduced by their distance to so small a size, that most of them appear like little clouds of very faint light upon the dark ground of the sky. Indeed, as it is impossible to concerte a limit to space, or to the power of the Croator, we can hardly fail to come to the conclusion, that nature has no other bounds than those which have been set to our means of ascertaining and understand-

THE STARS .- As already mentioned, the stars are supposed to be suns, or centre of light and heat, with planets revolving around them. The naked eye can only discern about a thousand, which have been clessed in six magnitudes, with a regard to their various degrees of light; the largest stars being of the first inagnitude, and so on. But when telescopes are employed, vast numbers, which are invisible to the eye, come into sight. Of the first magnitude, there are about twenty stars of the second, about sixty; many of these have particular names, which were bestowed upon them long ago by astronomers. Of the third magnitude, there are about two hundred. The visible stars are scattered irregularly over the heavens; and in some instances a few, taken in combination, form figures which may be likened to familiar objects open our earth. For instance, a combination in the northern part of the sky resembles an animal with its tail projected for behind its body; while another combination, which in winter we see in the south, suggests a figure of a man with a sword by his side. It has been found convenient by astronomers, to suppose the whole of the visible stars as forming figures, in order that the situation of any particular star may be readily descri-