

enlarging his views with respect to them. This noble instrument, as well as the microscope, by which we become acquainted with the invisible world in the other direction, is made of what are regarded as the humblest of earthly materials ; still, but for their use we might be to-day in the position in which the people of 1500 or 2000 years ago were, having no definite knowledge, and constantly changing our views and groundless theories, as to the system of the universe and Infinite existence.

There is nothing more evident than that man is of the same nature in every respect as the world in which he dwells, the media in which he lives and moves. He is in fact, as any other creature that exists in it, a part of it. It is quite as evident, from what astronomy and other sciences teach us, that the earth is of the same nature as are all those glorious worlds by which it is surrounded. It is, in fact, if we may so express it, a part of the universal whole. We see all these orbs, co-existent in space, in mutual dependence on each other, as are the members of the human body ; yea, and more so, for the human body may lose one or more of its members ; but one of those heavenly bodies, a member of the great universe, cannot be lost, not a particle of it. They all universally obey the same laws proceeding from that simple principle of gravitation, a principle which not only *preserves their existence in the forms in which they are, but also governs their motions, and confines them exactly to their own places.* We see that the principles of light and heat and gravitation act exactly alike, and equally, with respect to them all. This effect is abundantly sufficient to teach us that they are all of the same general substance ; but of this fact we have sensible evidence by being made, as it were, intimately acquainted with the surfaces of those that are nearest us by means of the telescope, and with the nature and constitution of those that are far distant from us by means of the colors of their light, and *spectrum analysis.* They are all the same general substance, the same spirit pervades the whole ; they are all *individual members of the infinite whole.* When we walk abroad and see a laborer digging a ditch or a pit in the earth the thought sometimes strikes us, that the substance on which that laborer is operating is just the kind of substance of which we ourselves are composed, and to which we shall one day, perhaps, ere long return, as it has happened to an infinity of our predecessors of mankind : that substance appears humble, but wherein is our superiority to it. And yet how few there are of mankind to whom such a thought ever occurs in its proper sense. Men are accustomed to look upon such things as altogether beneath their notice ; and not to allow such thoughts for a moment to occupy their mind. They look upon the earth as a dead thing, devoid of life ; and yet it is full of the principle of life ; there is not the minutest particle of lifeless matter in the whole earth, nor in the universe ; yea the earth itself, as well as all worlds, is all existing in life. We who are present are accustomed to think of the earth as a dark, cheerless