north and south, would constantly have only a very scanty measure of light and heat; consequently there would be no germinating spring time, and still less a ripening summer there; it would be almost all night and little day there; darkness and chilling cold would always predominate, and thus these sterile regions, constituting the major proportion of the earth, would be nearly, if not altogether uninhabited, through want of subsistence for animal life.

But to obviate these evils, the skilful Divine Artificer of the Universe, has made the earth move round the sun in a somewhat inclined or slanting position, so that in one part of her circuit one of her polar sections bends outward from the sun, while her other polar section bends inward to the sun; and by and by, that section which formerly bended outward, comes in turn to bend inward—the section which is most directed to the sun always receiving for the time the larger portion of his light and heat, so as to have lengthening day, and spring progressing into summer and autumn,—and the section which is directed away from the sun having, for the time, comparatively small light and heat, gradually bringing on freezing hoary winter, till it reaches its full extent, again to give way in the glorious march of Heaven's ever-circling plan of things. And thus does the benignant round of seasons occur from year to year. By this fine distribution of successive exposure to the sun's illuminating and genial influence, the upper and lower portions of our earthly ball, which most need the boon, obtain their proportion of that noble luminary's happy effects; and seed time and harvest, cold and heat, in their wise and beneficent variations, issuing in summer and winter, take place in proper order, with all their respective advantages and pleasures.

It is necessary here to advert for a little to the alternation of day and night in continual sequence, which is closely connected with these seasons. This alternation is caused by the earth turning upon itself, like a wheel on an axle, in the course of twenty-four hours. If it did not so revolve, as it moved round the sun, then one side of it would always be opposite to the sun, engrossing the light and heat to a degree that would be very injurious, while the other would be in perpetual darkness and extreme cold. But revolving as it does upon itself, first one side is presented to the sun, and he diffuses brilliant illumination and penetrating warmth; then another side is presented, causing day there, while night reigns on the former side—the one coming after the other continually,—and the difference in the length of day and night which takes place at certain seasons of the year, and has an intimate causal relation to them, is occasioned by the varying aspects towards the sun of the earth, from time to time of her vast annual progress. When the light and heat coming from the sun to a particular department of the