

APPENDIX VI.

THE SUPERNATURAL

BASED UPON SCIENTIFIC INDUCTION; OR, INTERRUPTION THE MOST UNIVERSAL LAW.

Law evidently reigns everywhere; but to understand what any law requires persevering efforts, first to ascertain and determine the facts, and then to decide what is the law engaged in their production. To assert that law reigns in all places and among all things, and that we can only satisfy the demands of science by strictly adhering to the principle of induction, may lead some to think that we bind ourselves down to a hard and fast positivism, and that in doing this we shut out the possibility of any higher relationship of life, especially the intercourse of man with a personal God. This is, in a measure, both true and false. True, as regards the unchanging potency of each law; not true, inasmuch as there is no law but which, at times, ceases to produce its results because it may be and often is interfered with by some other. And this interference or interruption of law by law is a principle forced upon our convictions by the strictest induction from facts. Let us illustrate this more fully. The principle of inertia, or that matter without applied force, will remain in the same place, is a pure induction of the reason, based upon a number of facts; and that, without a disturbing cause, it must remain in the condition it is found. Again: that gravity, or attraction, or cohesion will keep it in position; and moreover, we cannot conceive it possible but that these qualities or powers shall exist and exercise their influence.

But another set of facts compels us to infer the existence of another law which overrides the inertia of matter and the