

NOVA-SCOTIA (3) ALMANACK.

THOUGHTS ON ASTRONOMY.

There dwells a noble pathos in the skies,  
Which warms our passions, proselytes our hearts.

*Night Thoughts.*

OF the various studies which arrest the attention of man, there is no one better calculated to bring into exercise the noblest powers of his mind than the sublime science which forms the subject of this essay; it imparts, or strengthens in him a devotional taste, refines and elevates his sentiments, and enlarges his conceptions of that great and glorious Being "in whom life, light, and truth combine;" who hath spread out the heavens, "and set in them a tabernacle for the sun. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

Who can, with a meditative eye, contemplate the firmament glowing with countless myriads of living fires without yielding to its sweet and soothing influence,—feeling his bosom divested of all those ruder passions that militate against its peace, and impair its tranquility,—and his very nature experiencing that change which the placid beauty of such a scene is well fitted to produce? From this state of mind, which may aptly be denominated "The soul's calm sunshine and the heart felt joy," he gradually rises to that of wonder and astonishment at the stupendous works of the Divine Architect who first upreared the vast and beautiful fabric, and by whose omnipotent hand it is still sustained; viewing these, man yields the ready homage of sincere, reverential adoration,

And to his God.  
Feeling a sense of his own littleness,  
Is as a child in meek simplicity.

Well may he, reflecting upon the inconsiderable space he occupies in the universe, exclaim with the royal poet, "When I consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained,—Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that Thou visitest him?"

The science we are considering teaches us that this globe, on which we live, is itself a planetary body, forming a part of that great system, which it has presented to our admiring eyes, in such a magnificent point of view; that the earth comes under the influence of those laws by which the whole creation is governed—is connected, and has companionship with the radiant orbs of light by which it is surrounded, and, being itself a luminous body, imparts light to them in proportion to the degree which it receives. Thus is "the whole universe one system of society;"