

ation, a mere figure of speech. Wherever it is, on Jehovah's vast dominions, it is a sad *local reality* :

"Regions of sorrow, doleful shades,
Where peace and rest can never dwell;
Hope never comes."

This, then, is another separate world, at the thought of which every one who now hears of it should fervently say, "My soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united."

Reverting to the good angels of God, his loyal and unwavering servants of the angelic hosts, who, long before man was created, held fast their integrity to Jehovah, and have been confirmed in it immutably,—we think we can deduce a powerful argument for a plurality of worlds from the *ministrations* of these high and holy intelligences. We learn in Scripture that an important and most benevolent work which they perform is to do unseen but meet services to the people of God and of Christ among men. The Apostle Paul tells us that "they are all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Now, we may safely infer that it is not for men only that they thus act, but that such is a main part of their general active duty. We are taught further concerning them, that they existed long, probably very long indeed, before the creation of man; at which event, as the Book of Job tells us, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." And these were the heavenly angels who rejoiced greatly over intellectual and moral man, as a new accession to God's superior creatures. "Are we then to suppose," as has well been asked by a writer on the subject before us "that these myriads of heavenly messengers reposed in indolent inactivity, and that the office for which their nature adapted them remained in all but eternal abeyance, until man's creation furnished room for its exercise; and that it will again relapse into oblivion when man's probation has expired?" No, the warranted conclusion which we may draw concerning them is, that fitted as they were by their original constitution to do the will of God over the expanse of the universe; they were so employed, perhaps, during numberless ages prior to the era of our world; are so employed still, far beyond its narrow limits; and will be so employed even throughout eternity. And thus have we another link of fair presumptive evidence for a plurality of worlds, worlds whose inhabitants are worthy of the attentions and kindnesses of those glorious yet humble and devoted angels, who stand around the throne of Jehovah, hearkening to the voice of his word, and hastening, with the speed of lightning, to fulfil his commands.

Further, let us examine one or two remarkable passages of Scripture which seem to furnish quite sufficient grounds of reasoning in favour of many worlds occupied by rational and moral beings, such as God judges proper. The first is in the Epistle to the Ephesians,