

motion : and when we think of the vast magnitudes of many of those orbs of light, of the swift movements of the planets in their courses, and of the inconceivable distances of the fixed stars hung up in boundless space, the suns and centres of other systems, it inspires the soul with solemn awe and reverential feelings. It excites admiration, wonder and astonishment in every reflecting mind, and can scarcely fail to stir up feelings of devotion, and raise our affections to that glorious Being who presides in high authority over all their movements. We can enter fully into the spirit of Israel's poet and exclaim, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handiworks." There is no other scene in nature which gives us a better idea of the infinitude of God than contemplating the immeasurable expanse of the starry heavens. It teaches us the littleness of man ; and that this world which we think so much of is only a speck in the universe of God. Majesty, grandeur and power, as elements in sublimity, are consciously present to the mind, and lift us into a reverential and worshipful spirit. And what but the consciousness of personality can raise such emotions within us? "Without such a universe the infinite attributes of the Almighty could not be fully recognized and appreciated by us."

Are the conception of wisdom, unity of purpose, and intellectual comprehension necessary to command worship? Here again, nature meets our demand. Look at the structure and harmony of the universe as a vast machine ; and especially consider the forces by which that wonderful diversity which we behold is brought about. With what skill and delicacy are these forces adjusted to develop the different parts of the machine, from the delicate outline in the tender flower to the mighty power which moves the planets in their courses ; from the functions of animal organisms to the almost Divine powers of the human soul. Modern science tells us of an Absolute Power manifesting itself in the various forces which are operating in the universe. "Every movement of nature" says Mr. Herbert Spencer, "presupposes the power and the energy of a Force behind the scenes." The growing power of plants and animals causing them to develop into their individual species ; the lightning flash in the thundercloud ; the mighty power displayed in the hurricane bearing down all before it ; the swift revolutions of the heavenly bodies ; the gradual disintegration of lifeless organisms ; and even the nervous actions which regulate the conditions of thought, are all controlled by the same Inscrutable and Mysterious Force. Is it any wonder then that thoughtful men of science have uncovered their heads before this mysterious Power which is the life and activity of the universe? Perhaps, were we to view the matter with a little less prejudice than we are accustomed to do, the divergence between the Inscrutable Power of the scientist and the God of the Christian might not be very wide or dangerous. What is this Force we hear so much about but just God working immediately in nature around us? The lovely tints of the beautiful flowers which adorn our gardens are brought out as really by the artistic touches of His Divine hand, as the outlines of the landscape in a picture are by the brush of the painter. The mechanical wisdom and skill manifested in the construction of the bodies of plants and animals, and of the universe as a whole, declare these objects as really and immediately the work of a person, as the construction of any machine for human labor is an exhibition of the wisdom and skill of a machinist. God as a person is thus immediately present in every part of nature ; and as we contemplate the marvellous skill and adaptation exhibited in the construction of the universe,