

# The Theological Instructor.

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VOL. I.

## THE MAGNIFICENCE, BEAUTY, AND HARMONY OF THE WORKS OF GOD.

The universe may be considered, with great propriety, as a splendid palace where the Deity resides; and the earth as one of its spacious apartments. In the great outlines of nature, to which art cannot reach, and where the utmost efforts of man must have been ineffectual, God himself has finished everything with amazing magnificence, grandeur, and beauty. Where is harmony so complete, symmetry so exact, and sublimity so apparent, as in the works of the Almighty? Our beneficent Father has considered these parts of nature as peculiarly his own; as parts which no creature could have skill or strength to amend: He has, therefore, made them incapable of alteration, or of more perfect regularity. The heavens and the firmament, with all their grand and complicated appendages, exhibit in the most striking manner the transcendent wisdom, goodness, power, and glory of the Great Architect.

Astronomers, who are best skilled in the symmetry of systems, can find nothing there that they can alter for the better. In this great theatre of Jehovah's glory, a thousand suns, like our own, animate their respective systems, appearing and vanishing at Divine command. We behold our own bright luminary fixed, in the centre of its system, wheeling its planets in

times proportioned to their distances, and at once dispensing light, heat, and action. The earth, also, is seen with its two-fold motion, producing, by the one the change of seasons; and, by the other, the grateful vicissitudes of day and night. With what *silent* magnificence is all this performed! With what seeming ease! The works of art are performed by interrupted force; and their noisy progress discovers the obstructions they receive; but the earth, with a silent, steady rotation, successively presents every part of its bosom to the sun, at once imbibing nourishment and light from that parent of vegetation and fertility. Is there not something which whispers within, that to this Creator reverence and homage are due by all the rational beings composing the vast population of His wide extended empire. Every object, whether immense or minute, should serve as a monitor to man. The star and the insect, the fiery meteor and the flower of spring, the verdant field and the lofty mountain, the purling rivulet and the wide stupendous ocean, all exhibit a supreme power, before which the race of mortals should worship and adore. The Royal Poet not only expressed himself in loftiness of language, but also with propriety of sentiment, when he said "The heavens declare the