

all his planets put together ; and it is his bulk and density which give him the attractive power that causes the planets to gravitate towards him. The commonly received opinion now among philosophers respecting the sun is, that he is mainly a solid body, encircled by an envelope of burning gaseous matter, from which radiate the light and heat without which every planet would be in total darkness, and an entire frozen mass, incapable of sustaining either vegetative or animal life.

It is further necessary to our purpose to add that the most of the planets have secondary ones attached to them, and accompanying them around the sun, and also turning on their own axes. These are called *satellites*, or *attendants*. They are useful in giving *reflected light* to the part of their planet which is turned away from the sun ; and doubtless serve other important ends ; for God hath made nothing in vain. The earth has one satellite, the moon, without whose gentle, silvery light, our winter nights would be dreary indeed. Jupiter has four, besides those curious large belts which encompass him. Saturn has no less than eight, and also a singular ring of huge dimensions which enfolds him. Uranus likewise has eight ; and Neptune, so extremely remote, appears to have two.

Now, to apply to our analogical argument, this somewhat long but necessary detail, we say that as the other planets have so much analogy to our inhabited earth,—analogy in their mutual relation to the sun, as their common, central head,—analogy in their twofold revolutions, one solar, the other on their own axes,—analogy in all of them that need this, being provided with serviceable satellites,—analogy in at any rate some of them having an aerial atmosphere similar to ours, for sustaining breathing animals,—analogy, probably, in other respects, if we had means of ascertaining, does it not clearly follow that, in all probability, *some* of them at least are replenished, like the earth, with inhabitants suited to them ? We say, *some* of them ; because geological researches concerning our own globe have now led to the belief that the matter of the earth existed, and passed through many gradations, perhaps during millions of years, before it received that organization which the Divine Creator judged fit for making it the abode of intelligent man, and the scene of those wondrous events, disclosed to us in the Bible, belonging to his moral history, and his salvation from sin, by a Divine—incarnate Redeemer, and his future eternal destiny. And the modified form to which we thus see it proper to reduce our argument is this—that, reasoning from analogy, the planetary bodies of our system are probably either now furnished with inhabitants, or are in a course of preparation for being supplied with them ; though it may be that the preparation shall occupy a very long period. Some of them, which have been fitted for it, may be already inhabited ; others shall be so, when they shall have acquired the fitness judged necessary by Him whose understanding is infinite. Were we not to entertain such a persuasion as has now been stated,