

among the inhabitants of the earth, put his purpose into execution. He has created; and O what a wonderful, what a mysterious, what an incomprehensible thing it is to create! To create an insect! To create an atom! The thought is overwhelming, for almighty power alone is competent for the task. Creation, we say, is a fact, however the mode of it, or the nature of it, may be hid from us; the fact of it is revealed, made known to us, and believed by us. Neither are we left in the dark with respect to the origin of creation: it had its origin in the deliberate choice, the sovereign will of the creator. He was not necessitated to bring the universe into being, but *he has created*; and O how great, how small, how simple, how complex, how vast, how varied are the works of his hand.!!

That splendid and magnificent universe, an insignificant portion of which is only visible to us when we look up into the heavens in a clear winter evening, started into being at the bidding of Jehovah. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." "Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that are therein, and thou preservest them all, and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."

"By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens." "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands." The first act of creation was not an act of equity, or of justice, but of pure sovereignty; and all God's works of creation from the first onward, and downward through countless ages to the present moment, have been one unbroken manifestation of divine sovereignty.

He did not owe existence to any of the elements of nature, or any single atom of which the material universe is formed. He did not owe existence to the worm that crawls on the earth, or the fish that swims in the ocean. He did not owe existence to the flowers that beautify the fields, the beasts of the forest, or the cattle upon a thousand hills. He did not owe existence to the sun that rules by day or the moon that gives us light by night. The creation of the meanest and most insignificant insect that dances its short but happy life time away in the setting sunbeam, as well as the creation of the mightiest and most exalted archangel that burns before the eternal throne, are alike acts of pure sovereignty. The high and the lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, and who doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven, and