

SECTION XVI.

Colours in the Atmosphere.—The Prism and Sir Isaac Newton.—Opinion thereon.

—The Atmosphere contains a variety of Fluids.—The Fluids are earthy productions from opaque and transparent substances.—Colours are seven in number, exclusive of white.—Eye-light and the light of the Universe destroy all Colours.—Names of Colours erroneously arranged.—Colours can only be seen in certain degrees of Light respectively.—The Prism as a magnifying power.—Observations upon a Window.—The light of the Eye obliterates fine Shadows.—Blue ether can be looked through to a great distance, and White may be discerned by certain means.—Shadows projected by Window Bars.

By the use of the Prism seven different colours are revealed to our view, viz.: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

Those seven colours have been termed the solar spectrum, because they have been considered a production of solar light.

Sir Isaac Newton and many other eminent philosophers have considered that the whole of those seven colours are a production from white light, by virtue of the Prism, and that white light contains the whole seven.

That the Prism possesses the power of separating white light into those seven colours, and when they employed a second Prism, with power equal to the first, they supposed that they had found a means of returning all those colours into white light again.

If Sir Isaac Newton considered that the white light he spoke of to be, and to contain, all the atmosphere, and all fluids therein contained, his ideas, so far, were close upon the subject, but the idea that the prism possessed the power of separating all those colours to be seen, and that a second