

we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?' is the general inquiry. Truly holy persons employ their hands upon the world, and set their hearts on heaven—but even these find it difficult, amidst the distractions and cares of the present state, to keep their affections set upon the things that are above. Their souls too often cleave unto the dust, and their hearts are sometimes overcharged. Nothing of that nature will be experienced in heaven: 'God will be all in all.' No wants will there remain to be supplied, no dangers to be averted, no provision to be made for futurity. The contemplation and enjoyment of the Great Eternal will present an ample occupation of the mind for ever and ever.

At present, the occupations in which we are engaged have no immediate relation to the Deity, they are capable of being sanctified only by a general intention of pleasing God, while it is impossible to make him the immediate object of our thought. In eternity the capacity will be so enlarged and extended, that the idea of God will be incessantly impressed, the beams of his glory will perpetually penetrate the heart, and the fire of love will never cease to burn upon the altar.

ASTRONOMY.

THE MOON.

The opinions of astronomers are at variance with respect to the existence of a lunar atmosphere. Philosophers often reason from analogy and because the surface of the Moon bears a striking resemblance to the Earth, in having valleys, mountains, hills, dales, volcanoes, &c. They conclude that the Moon has an atmosphere, and, consequently rain, hail, snow and winds. Various are the arguments advanced on each side of this question by astronomers of the greatest fame.

But if we may be allowed to judge from the appearance of the Moon when our nights are clear, we may conclude that the Moon has no atmosphere. No person ever perceived either clouds or vapours on her disk, or any thing resembling them—and these must have been seen in every age by millions of mankind, if lunar clouds, &c. existed—unless we believe that there may be an atmosphere without vapours.

Mr. Ferguson observes, 'If there were seas in the Moon, she could have on clouds,

rains nor storms, as we have; because she has no atmosphere to support the vapours which occasion them. And every body knows that when the Moon is above our horizon in the night-time, she is visible, unless the clouds of our atmosphere hide her from our view: and all parts of her appear constantly with the same clear, serene, and calm aspect. But those dark parts of the Moon, which were formerly thought to be seas, are now found to be only vast deep cavities, and places which reflect not the Sun's light so strongly as others, having many caverns and pits whose shadows fall within them, and are always dark on the sides next the Sun, which demonstrates their being hollow; and most of these pits have little knobs, like hillocks, standing within them and casting shadows also, which cause these places to appear darker than others that have fewer or less remarkable caverns. All these appearances show that there are no seas in the Moon; for if there were any, their surface would appear smooth and even, like those on the Earth.'

Dr. Brewster observes—'The arguments adduced by Mr. Ferguson to prove that there is no sea in the Moon are very far from being conclusive. The existence of a lunar atmosphere is completely ascertained: and the little pits and eminences which appear in the dark parts of the Moon, which are extremely even and smooth, may be regarded as rocks or islands. By observations however, on Mare Crisium, when the line which separates the enlightened from the obscure segment of the Moon passed through the large and apparently level spot, I have found that the shaded parts of the Moon, however smooth they may appear, are not level surfaces, and therefore cannot be seas. If there were seas in the Moon, there would be particular times when the reflected light of the Sun would render them more brilliant than any other part of her surface, and the light would acquire that property called polarization, which is, however, found not to be the case.'

It would appear, therefore, from these facts, that there is no water in the Moon, neither rivers, nor lakes, nor seas, and hence we are entitled to infer that none of those atmospherical phenomena which arise from the existence of water in our own globe, will take place in the lunar world.

(To be continued.)