

XXVI.

The Bright and Morning Star.

ALL thoughtful men have revered the stars. The mind is soothed and awed by the expressive quiet of a starry sky. Not the poets only, but all men of reflection and sensibility, have imitated the son of Jesse in the night watches: "I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained."*

In the noble imagery of Scripture, the lights of the firmament are made preachers of righteousness: "The Lord God is a Sun;"† the Church is to be "fair as the Moon."‡ One beautiful emblem in the sky the Lord Jesus has appropriated to Himself—the steadfast dayspring from on high: "I am the Bright and Morning Star."§ Many are the stars in the sky, one differing from another in glory, but this excelleth them all—the chief among ten thousand, and "altogether lovely."

* Psalm viii. 3.

‡ Cant. vi. 10.

† Psalm lxxxiv. 11.

§ Rev. xxii. 16.