the universe and the light of the eye have nothing more to
perform than to meet each other, and, under the directions
of the magnifying power of the prism, unite and form
junctions upon the several grades of shades, above and
below the illuminated space.

The solar spectrum about which so many curious notions
have been formed, (all of which, instead of explaining, are
calculated to confound the understanding) is as simple
as the English alphabet, if considered rightly. It is pro-
duced by letting a portion of strong light through an aper-
ture into a dark room, and by placing a prism in the aper-
ture for the sun to shine through. A screen of white paper
may be held up at some little distance from the prism in
the dark room to receive the light; the light, of course, is
strongest in the middle, and from thence it decreases to-
wards the top and bottom, and accordingly the colours are
seen from thence, varying in their tint towards the top and
bottom, each colour in its respective grade of light; that
towards the bottom being yellow, orange, and red; that
towards the top being blue, indigo, and violet, and that re-
maining in the centre being green, is a compound of yellow
and blue.

If rightly considered, the theory for the rainbow and
the spectrum, is the same in every respect but one, that is,
the shape of the bows, for, when looking through the arti-
ficial prism at the rainbow, the eye-light or eye-sight forms
the bows, as it does by looking at a rail or any other pole
of timber lying horizontally and parallel with the eye; but
whilst looking at the spectrum, the eye-light does not pass
through the prism at all, so, consequently, no bows are
formed, but if the prism is taken from the aperture and