

when the centre of our system did not shine, when as yet it had no being. There must have been a period in past duration when those innumerable stars that stud the immensity of space, and twinkle in the firmament of heaven were not in being. There must have been a period in past duration when there was no milky-way, when no sun had as yet cast its beams upon its dependant planets; when the raw material out of which the splendid and stupendous universe arose, had no existence. There must have been a period in past duration when no being but the self-existent, independent and uncreated Jehovah existed;—yes, when He alone existed. Let us look at this idea, let us grasp the thought. This period in the nature of things, as well as in the order of nature, was prior to the beginning, spoken of in the first verse of the first chapter of Genesis, when God is said to have created the heavens and the earth.

By the greatest stretch of either our intellectual eye, or our imagination we cannot see farther back than this. What now do we behold? We behold the only Being that exists solitary and alone, enjoying infinite delight in the contemplation of his own absolutely infinite perfections. But we see him too, forming in his own infinite mind a stupendous plan, a plan, which at some future period will be by his unerring wisdom and omnipotent lower put in execution. In a word, we see him *purposing to create*. It is quite evident to every reflecting mind that this *purpose* to create, must, in the very nature of things, have been an act of pure sovereignty. He was under no conceivable obligation to purpose to create that chaos out of which in after ages countless worlds, and suns and systems, like so many dew drops sparkling in the fields of immensity, were to be formed. Now since the great I AM, who only hath immortality, who only inhabiteth eternity, and who only *then existed*, was under no obligation to purpose to create, it follows as a matter of course, that his purposing to create must have been an act of absolute and uncontrollable sovereignty.

But in order that we may enter a little more fully into this subject we would observe again, **THAT GOD ACTED AS A SOVEREIGN IN CREATING.**

Of course the self-existent and independent One was under no more obligation *to create* than he was under obligation *to purpose* to create. He who sits supreme upon the throne of the universe, and who doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven, and