

## REVIEW.

*Celestial Scenery; or the Wonders of the Planetary System displayed; illustrating the perfections of Deity, and a plurality of Worlds.* By THOMAS DICK, L. L. D. 18mo. pp. 422. Price 3s. 6d. Harpers, New York: Greig, Montreal. 1838.

Dr. Dick has long been a favourite with the young, and deservedly so; and though his style is too redundant, and he sometimes dwells too long upon a favourite idea, to be quite agreeable to us older folks who happen to have some acquaintance with the subjects of which he treats; to our younger friends the good Doctor's works are a mine of valuable information that will well repay the trouble of working it. His ample intelligence, his general good sense, his skill in selection and arrangement, his power of research, his habit of reflection, and his serious and benevolent spirit, render him an admirable guide through the vast and varied sphere of nature's wonders, while he seizes with delight every opportunity of directing his reader to mark the "finger of God" in all that he beholds.

The work now before us is part of a series of fifty volumes which the spirited publishers have issued under the general title of *The District Library*, embracing a great variety of useful and interesting subjects ably treated by the best writers of the age in their respective departments. The volumes consist partly of reprints from standard British authors, and partly of original productions by American writers. Considering the quantity of matter and the numerous illustrations they contain, the volumes are remarkably cheap, even with the additional charges of customs and importation.

The "Scenery" which the volume before us brings into view is at once attractive and sublime; it is indeed "celestial;" and if the reader will not only peruse the printed page, but also "lift up" his "eyes unto the heavens," and patiently survey the objects presented to him, according to the author's judicious precepts, he will at every step of his advancing progress find fresh reason for admiration and praise. A system of astronomy is given in popular language for the use of general readers, divested of the more abstruse and recon-dite portions of that noble science, which none but those who can enter deeply into mathematical investigations could possibly understand. "All the facts and discoveries connected with descriptive astronomy, in so far as they relate to the planetary system, are here recorded, and many of them exhibited in a new point of view; and several facts and observations are detailed which have hitherto

been either unnoticed or unrecorded." "One new department of astronomical science, which has hitherto been overlooked, has been introduced into this volume, namely, the scenery of the heavens as exhibited from the surfaces of the different planets and their satellites, which forms an interesting object of contemplation, and, at the same time, a presumptive argument in favour of the doctrine of a plurality of worlds." For the purpose of graphical illustration, a hundred and sixteen figures and diagrams, from wood cuts, have been inserted in their proper places. In the NINE chapters which the work contains, an immense quantity of valuable and interesting matter is introduced, relating to the earth and all visible surrounding worlds as far as observation has made us acquainted with them, except the fixed stars, of which the author intends to treat separately in another volume. An Appendix is added containing *Descriptions of Celestial phenomena*, and of the *positions and aspects of all the planets* during the years 1838 and 1839.

How much better would many of the young men of this Colony be employed in mastering the contents of such a volume as this, than in those pursuits which degrade their nature, waste their property, and injure both their virtue and their health. To exhibit an analysis of the work would occupy too much room; and for the same reason we must abstain from farther extracts, which we should otherwise be glad to make. This, however, is the less necessary, as those of our readers who wish to study the subject, and have any confidence in our opinion, will not fail to procure the volume for themselves.

*The Union Bible Dictionary.* Prepared for the American SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION, and revised by the Committee of Publication. 18mo. pp. 648. Second Edition. 1838. Philadelphia, Union Office; Montreal, Greig.

This is an extremely judicious publication, prepared with very great care, and is highly creditable to the Society from which it issued. The principles which have been observed in its preparation, and which are detailed with admirable distinctness and brevity in the preface, are well adapted to secure the greatest excellence in a given space; and as compression was essential to the design, this was a consideration of great importance. As far as we have examined the articles, the principles laid down have been strictly adhered to. The work cannot fail to be very useful, as a book of reference, to Sunday-schools, to families, and in short to all who may need to consult its pages. We give the following as specimens of the neat and