

THE WHOLE HEART REQUIRED BY CHRIST.—How grossly do you delude yourselves, that make your hearts dens of pride, filthy lust, malice, and envy, and thousands of vanities, and yet think to find a corner in them to lodge Christ in! Truly you would both straiten him in room, and give him very bad neighbours. No, they that think not a whole heart too little for him, shall never enjoy him.—*Leighton.*

WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT.—The testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my Spirit, that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ has loved, and given himself for me; and that all my sins are blotted out, and I, even I am reconciled to God.—*Wesley.*

SAFETY LIES IN CHRIST.—Christ is ever present in and with his people; and while he is on board, the ship cannot sink. He may, indeed seem to sleep for a time, and to disregard both the vessel and the storm. Do you awake him by prayer and supplication.—*Dr. Gifford.*

PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY.—Let prosperity be as oil to the wheels of obedience, and affliction as wind to the sails of prayer.—*Philip Henry.*

ASTRONOMICAL.

To the Editor of the Wesleyan.

SIR.—The following verses were composed by the late Rev. John Richmond, with the design of filling the dominion of the Solar System in the minds of his children. As I apprehend they will not only be highly interesting but also instructive to many of your readers, I shall make no apology for requesting their insertion in your excellent Periodical.

I am Sir, your's respectfully,

C. F. W.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

As we looked at the skies, my dear child, when last night,
And their beauties and wonders attracted our sight;
Of explaining their nature we set the task,
So I'll try to afford the instruction you seek.

THE SUN.

In the midst of our system the sun takes his place,
And brilliantly shines through the regions of space;
He illumines the world, and his light is the source,
Preserves all their motions, and regulates their course.
He turns round his axis in twenty-four hours,
While his light reaches our eyes, his heat warms our souls;
His diameter viewed with the aid of the telescope,
Proves near nine hundred thousand miles in extension;
Around this vast orb revolve the planets seen,
Of the planets eleven, with the moon, just eighteen.

MERCURY.

First Mercury moves through the bright solar rays,
Completing his orbit in eighty-eight days;
The breadth of his disk at three thousand seven,
The distance of millions of miles thirty-seven.

VENUS.

Next Venus advances, with radiant smiles,
From the sun distant sixty-nine millions of miles;
She revolves round her centre in months about eight,
And compared with our earth she in size is as great;
In beauty next to the sun she shines from afar,
And gladdens the eye as a morn or eve star.

THE EARTH.

Amidst this grand range of celestial pavilions,
Next comes, at a distance of ninety-five millions,
The globe of the earth, with its radiant attendant,
Both alike on the sun's gravitation dependant.
Earth revolves as enlightened by Sol's mighty blaze,
In three hundred and sixty-five of our days;
Round her axis impelled by omnipotent power,
She turns and returns by the twenty-fourth hour.
Near eight thousand miles is the breadth of her span,
And thus she was formed for the dwelling of man;
As the sun rules the day, so the moon shines by night,
Each affording in turn their magnificent light.

THE MOON.

The moon's time in her path as the earth she moves round,
Just twenty-nine days and a half will be found;
From the earth she is distant, although she seems near,
Twenty-four times ten thousand of miles it is clear.
By the light of the sun her face is adorned,
While she sometimes is gibbous, and sometimes is horn'd.
When at full, she's quite round, when new, she's not seen,
But whenever she shines, is of night the gay queen.
Of high hills and deep vales she has plentiful store,
And her breadth of our miles is two thousand and more.

By his glass, the astronomer clearly discerns
In a month round her axis she steadily turns:
Thus the earth and the moon are impelled by a force,
Which preserves all their motions in annual course.

MARS.

Next revolving amidst this bright region of stars,
We behold in his orbit the ruddy-faced Mars;
He appears to move on with our lunar assistance,
At a distance of forty-four millions of distance
While he travels his path, like our own, he makes his day;
Near two years will accomplish his annual way:
His diameter is less than the earth's, but twice,
And his radiance is marked by its roseate hue.

THE ASTEROIDS.

Four planets come next of diminutive size,
Too small to be seen with the naked eye;
But the telescope reveals of what nature they are,
And discovers their motions as we view them afar.
In order comes Vesta, then Juno, then Ceres,
Whose order to Pallas exceeds in years;
But these Asteroids no more shall describe,
The attention now due unto Jupiter's orb.

JUPITER.

Enlightened by Sol with refulgence he smiles,
To the stars near five hundred millions of miles;
His disk is four times the breadth of the sun,
As the sun is four times the breadth of the moon;
He is more than ten times his own axis turns round;
His year is twelve years as it plainly appears.
Revolves round the sun in twelve of our years;
Circles his path in a near parallel line,
Yet through the ether the planet with brilliancy shines;
He is constant in position to the dark night,
In his orbit he moves by our glasses is seen,
In ten periods of months from the days to sixteen.

SATURN.

Now for beyond Jupiter on whom I cease
To gaze, for he is distant from our eyes a space,
Seven hundred millions of miles from the sun,
Preserves his orbit in years about thirty;
Nine times round the sun he makes his annual round,
So that his year is thirty of our years;
When he is seen, the breadth of his disk is great,
In his orbit he moves by our glasses is seen;
Two thousand miles in breadth of his disk he is seen,
For Saturn his journey performs round the sun;
In periods of nine years he makes his annual round,
The planet's rotation is not so rapid as ours;
But that which most singularly he is seen,
Is two enormous rings which encircle his sphere;
It would seem that his year is not so rapid as ours;
As detached from his orbit they revolve round him,
Heaven's light is not present in their orbits;
Thus this planet, his rings, and his moons are seen at night.

URANUS, HERSCHELL OR GEORGIUM SIDUS.

But as further we penetrate heavenly regions,
Where the stars are abounding in multitudes of regions,
We find a planet of magnitude vast,
Which is distant from the sun a space of light years;
Called Uranus, Herschell, or Georgium Sidus,
A sight of his disk without help is denied us;
But his light is bright by the aid of the telescope near
His centre is manifest, he orbits round the sun;
Eighty-four years he takes to complete his annual round,
In his orbit he moves by our glasses is seen;
The planet's rotation is not so rapid as ours;
On his orbit he moves by our glasses is seen;
So bright he is, that he is seen by the naked eye;
Like a comet, in the sun's rays he is seen at night.

THE COMETS.

But still we pursue astronomical song,
As not planets alone to our system belong;
Many are the comets, in orbits most strange,
By Sol attracted in elliptical range;
With their long tails of hair, trailing fiery tails,
When they are seen, they are seen in the sky;
But their long-tailed elliptical orbits in the sky
The powers of astronomy seem to defy;
As short as their stay they are in observation,
On which we can ground a correct calculation.
The comet's course is gone, so soon it is vanished,
That successful prediction they've failed to banish.

CONCLUSION.

To the system named Solar, I call your attention,
Of the stars which here fixed I shall now have the mention,
But will be their instruction I've sought to impart,
I have wished to improve the best thoughts in your heart.
With deep veneration I lift up your eyes,
And contemplate these works of the God of the skies;
He formed them, he governs, he guides every motion,
And by them he summons each soul to devotion.
The firmament showeth the work of his hand,
Such wisdom and power adoration command.
Each planet revolves, and each comet appears,
To exalt the great God of our days and our years.
Not a star but its light shall loudly proclaim
The magnificent praise of his excellent name;
Join the chorus above, and let glory be given
To him who directs both on earth and in heaven.