

LECTURE

ON

NATURAL, MORAL AND PHYSICAL·

GEOGRAPHY.

THE subject which I intend to bring before your notice this evening, (though from the time allotted to me necessarily in a very brief and superficial manner,) is one of the most important to which we can direct our attention. Last week, several, nay, probably the greater part of those now present, heard a very interesting and able Lecture upon the Human Body: my purpose now is to tell you something about the earth which that body inhabits, the atmosphere it breathes, and the objects by which it is surrounded.

You are well aware that 5860 years ago the Almighty Will framed and designed this terrestrial planet out of nothing; it pleased Him in His supreme wisdom to create this visible world. The decrees went forth: disorganized matter became arranged, and filled the great void; even the Ancients, although they had no knowledge of revealed religion, had some superstitious ideas connected with the creation of the world, which have been embodied in the words of a Poet:

"From air, from ocean, from each distant clime,
"The summoned Genii heard the muttered rhyme,
"Each fairy shape the mystic spell obeyed,—
"A perfect world in beauty stood arrayed."