

all-embracing monarchy ! If there is any awe in a man it will come forth and assert itself on every fresh excursion up and down the tremendous stretches of this celestial empire.

Truly, the King personally so great has a kingdom to match. His sphere is worthy of Him. Thought itself grows faint in its presence. What panting Ariel can put a girdle about it ? What expert arithmetician can count up its provinces ? Behold an empire that never has occasion to dispute over boundaries, for it has none ! Behold an empire that fears no attack from without, for to it there is no without ! Its horizon sweeps about everything—about everything known and unknown. It is the only empire that has no neighbors. We have heard of the empire on which the sun never sets : here we have one within which all suns rise.

2. *God is a great friend to busy and forceful activity—to an executive way of living.*

The first glance at the heavens seems to discover only absolute rest. But as soon as we begin to look narrowly, and to get beneath the surface of things, we find that everything is in motion after a most wonderful manner. Nothing is at rest. Not an atom but is moving and working at a tremendous rate. Incessant and mighty activity is found wherever we probe the sky with our eyes or our instruments. Every world and every particle seems to have a mission, and to be energetically and remorselessly busy in fulfilling it. Enthusiastic work—from it there is no dispensation and no respite. Day and night, summer and winter, the astronomical forces take no holiday. Some motions are more rapid than others ; the planet, or moon, or sun has its varying rates of speed ; sometimes, perhaps, a relative rest may be reached for a while in the contest between equal contending forces ; but even in this case the rest is merely relative to a few circumstances. The centre of equilibrium is itself ever on the move. The hub of the chariot-wheel, while stationary as to the spokes, is all the while flying over the race-course as fast as blooded Arabians can hurry it.

I am not one of those who resolve everything into motion ; yet, beyond doubt, motion is one of the great facts of the physical universe. In astronomy this motion appears in great masses : planets, satellites, and suns rush and wheel so constantly and mightily as to astonish and bewilder us who are so puny, spasmodic, and easily wearied in our action. Tell us of a single object in the sky that stands still. Tell us of a single world that is not travelling faster on its mission than any object that we can impel. From the speed of light to that of Neptune is a large interval ; but even Neptune spins along at an average of twelve thousand miles an hour. In the heavens, as well as on the earth, activity is the condition of health. Were a world to come to a standstill it would perish. So the whole azure plain above us is throbbing and heaving with vitality. Never was battle-field more alive with advancing, deploying, retreating hosts. No battle ever takes place among the stars ; but seemingly all the skilful