

out of chaos ; but a volume of well-ordered method and sequence, revealing on every page the purpose and design of its Author. Turning, then, to the pages of this ample volume, astronomy is the science which, dealing with the visible present appeals even to the uncultured mind—to the Syrian shepherd, as to the Indian hunter on the prairies—in proof of an all-mighty and all-wise Creator. With upturned eyes, savage and sage alike peer into the immeasurable depths of space lighted up with its galaxy of worlds and suns, marshalled in such harmonious symmetry that they unmistakably reveal the evidence of design, order and law ; the governance of a Supreme intelligence. Nor is the royal psalmist alone in learning from them the lesson of devout humility, as he considered the heavens, the work of God's hand, the moon and the stars which He has ordained, and realized the marvellous compass of that overruling Providence that can still be mindful of the meanest of His creatures.

The old Greek, perplexed though he was by the misleading complexities of a stellar universe revolving, as it seemed to him, around our own little planet, nevertheless realized such a rhythmical harmony and beauty in the motions of the heavenly bodies—cycle and epicycle, orb on orb—that he listened if perchance he might catch some echo of the music of the spheres which seemed inseparable from that stately measure of their nightly round. The same fascinating idea is revived by our own Shakespeare, in lighter mood, when his Venetian lovers meet in the moonlit gardens of Belmont. I say in its amplest sense, "our Shakespeare ;" for in this reunion with so choice a gathering of American friends it is pleasant to recall the community which we realize in the matchless literature of our mother tongue. With an alto-

gether peculiar bond of kinship, akin to that recognized among the remotest wanderers from the Hellenic Fatherland : on the Euxine, at Cyrene, Masala, or in furthest colonial outposts on the Iberian shores, we "who speak the tongue that Shakespeare spake, the faith and morals hold that Milton held," may surely claim to be one. And so, as such, with Shakespeare for our guide, we renew the fond imaginings of the old Greek, as Lorenzo in that moonlight meeting with his bride, in "The Merchant of Venice," points her to the floor of heaven, all thick inlaid with patines of bright gold, and exclaims :

There's not the smallest orb in all the heaven
But in its motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim.
Such harmony is in immortal souls ;
But while this muddy vesture of decay
Does grossly close us in, we cannot hear it.

Thus, as it would seem, not alone the gaze of the wondering onlooker, but the combined research of ages concur in the verdict which your thesis affirms. We, too, in the spirit of the old Greek, may assuredly recognize the perfect harmony and order which everywhere reveals a Creator's hand.

Alike in the splendour of that universe which greets our eyes as with optic glass we strive to fathom its mysteries, and to interpret its chronicling as a page of nature's volume, and in the minutest atom that the microscope reveals, we recognize the consistent harmony of a Divine law-giver. For the same law that moulds a tear, and shapes a dew-drop, holds the planets in their course and regulates the form and motions of suns and worlds. The astronomer, with ever increasing aids of science, penetrates into remoter depths of space only to bring back fresh evidence of an all pervading harmony amid its countless members. In confident reliance on the orderly movements of the planets, Leverrier and Adams in-