

Though it does not appear, that he originally invented, he, doubtless, improved the invention of telescopes; and applied them to astronomical purposes! Especially has modern astronomy been improved, enriched, and confirmed by the discoveries and experiments of that prodigy of mathematical knowledge, the incomparable Sir Isaac Newton.

Modern discoveries, in the sublime science of astronomy, have opened prospects, which, at once, astonish and delight, to a degree which words are unable to express. The most obvious distribution of those heavenly bodies, which we commonly call stars, is into two classes; permanent and planetary; fixed and wandering. The former are usually, by way of eminence, called stars; the latter planets. The stars, on account of their apparent unequal magnitudes, are divided into six classes; called stars of the first; stars of the second; stars of the third; stars of the fourth; stars of the fifth; and stars of the sixth magnitude. Of the stars some are visible to the naked eye; others are discovered only by the assistance of glasses, called telescopes. The latter have, on this account, been called telescopical stars. An ordinary telescope is said to discover, in several parts of the heavens, ten times as many stars as can be seen by the naked eye. The apparent unequal magnitudes of the stars, are, probably, owing to their unequal distances. To a person at the nearest star, our sun would, probably, appear no larger than that star does to us.

At such immense distances are the stars from us, that, it is supposed, a ball shot from a loaded cannon, and flying with undiminished velocity, would travel several hundred thousand years before it could reach the nearest of them.

*(To be Continued.)*