

Her proximity to the earth gives the moon the privilege of exercising a remarkable influence on nature. She has a great deal to do with the germination and the growth of planets, and with many diseases, especially those affecting the brain. Hence the current story of Ariosto, who tells us that there is in the moon an immense store of labelled phials, each containing the share of common sense of every mortal. Hence, also, the common saying: "He is in his good or bad moon."

Now, are the planets inhabited? This is what we may term a bold question, that has, in every country and in every century, puzzled many inquisitive minds, and to which we like to hear an answer. Could astronomers construct a telescope powerful enough to enable them to discover what is going on in those remote plains and distant valleys of the planetary globes they would consider themselves well rewarded for their long and tedious labours; but, alas! they can form but mere conjectures.

Arago, the celebrated French astronomer, tells us of a Prussian geometer who, in order to converse with the inhabitants of the moon, had thought of casting a metallic reflecting mirror of gigantic proportions that would receive the light of the sun and reflect it, throwing it back on the moon. The inhabitants of our satellite, seeing that such a phenomenon could not be the effect of hazard, might construct a similar apparatus and return the compliment. Thus, communication might be established between the earth and the moon. A strange notion! But to come to the point. Are the planets inhabited? Some think they are; others say they are not. Well, gentlemen, allow me to enumerate a few reasons that favor the affirmative.

Reason and wisdom tell us that the means employed to attain an end must be adjusted or proportioned to that end; and the nature of these means gives us an idea of the end that is sought. For instance, when I see a large square stone building, well roofed, having windows, doors and staircases, I am naturally led to infer from what I see that it is intended to be the dwelling of a family. When I consider man with his eyes, ears, hands and feet, I naturally come to this conclusion: God

has given these external senses, or faculties for some purpose; that man may see, hear, touch and walk. If you kill any animal you find in it all the essentials of life: the organs, a stomach, arteries, veins, etc. Now God, having created this earth that it should be inhabited, has supplied it with all the requisites for that end. It possesses a breathable atmosphere, air for the lungs, light for the eyes, clouds and rain to give fertility to the soil, the seasons to ripen fruits, mountains to shelter from the winds, valleys to drain the land; in a word, everything is perfectly adjusted to the end God has in view. Now lift up your heads to the starry heavens and remember that the planets are, for the most part, of a solid compact mass and equal in point of space to 397 worlds such as ours, and could, at the rate of England's population, have a population 27,000 times larger than that of our globe. Their form, like that of the earth, is spherical; like the earth, they revolve round the sun, from which they receive light and heat. In these planets everything seems to be organized for life. They have their mountains and valleys, their seasons, their sunny days and charming nights.

Now, can we for a moment imagine that the vast extent of surface on such magnificent globes is a scene of everlasting barrenness and desolation, where eternal silence and solitude have prevailed and will forever prevail; where no sound is heard throughout all these regions; where nothing appears but interminable deserts, diversified with frightful precipices and gloomy caverns; where nothing beautiful adorns the landscape; where no trace of rational intelligences is to be found, and where no thanksgiving, nor melody, nor grateful adoration ascends to the Ruler of the Skies? Are those bright pearls of the heavens mere marvels of solitude and death? a wild dance of huge worlds through the fields of boundless space? No. Such a supposition would exhibit a distorted view of the character and attributes of the Creator. It would represent him as exerting his creative power to no purpose. Isaiah, speaking of the creation of the heavens, says: "He created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." Transport yourself in