

lume, of any world or worlds, existing prior to the Mosaic creation, it has said nothing. All such worlds seem to have been, to the inspired writers, totally unknown. Of the speculations and hypotheses of capricious scepticism, there is no end. Innumerable are the instances, in which mankind have discovered a greater desire to know what the Most High has wisely concealed from them, than to improve what he has been graciously pleased to reveal to them.

Under the appellations of the *heavens* and the *earth*, of which the Mosaic creation consists, are comprehended all worlds and all creatures.

The term *creation* seems to have, in the Mosaic history, two acceptations ; a primary and a secondary. According to the former, it denotes the production of a world or worlds out of nothing. According to the latter, it signifies the formation of creatures, of various species, out of pre-existent matter. The great mass, which the Almighty produced on the first, underwent, on the five subsequent days, various modifications ; and from it were formed the numerous and diversified material beings, with which the upper and lower worlds were replenished. These creatures, of various kinds, inhabitants of the earth, of the water, and of the air, the omnipotent, without doubt, could have produced in a moment. But, for wise purposes, he chose to perform the work, not in a moment, an hour, or a day ; but six days. A bare repetition of the fanciful opinion, that by six days the sacred historian intends six thousand years, is a sufficient refutation of it.

In the Mosaic account of creation, there is no express mention of angels. But they, doubtless, are included in that brief recapitulation of the works of the preceding six days, Gen. 1. 1. *Thus were the heavens and the earth finished ; and all the host of them.* That they were the first, or among the first, as they, doubtless, are the best, of the works of the great creator, is, in the highest degree, probable. Accordingly they are, in the sequel of the sacred volume, introduced as spectators,