

tances from our earth, yet its splendor is such that we cannot behold it with the naked eye. Let us then "Give thanks unto the Lord, to him that made great lights, for his mercy endureth forever."

But not only have we the sun; we have the moon, which is the nearest planet to us. The Astronomer, with his powerful telescope, is able to see mountains and plains, caverns and insulated rocks, hills and plains of almost every shape on the face of the moon. The mean distance of the moon from our earth is 237 thousand miles. The Earl of Rosse, with his large telescope, has been able to confirm the opinion of preceding astronomers, and has made many discoveries. Time would fail me to speak of Mars, Jupiter, Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Vesta, Juno, Ceres, Pallas, and Uranus. The last named is estimated to be 18 hundred millions of miles from our earth. To reach the nearest point of its orbit, a cannon ball, flying from the earth in that direction at the rate of five hundred miles an hour, would require a period of 390 years. "Come and see the works of God, he is terrible in His doing towards the children of men." "The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the people see His glory." We again take into consideration the nearest fixed star, which star is calculated to be no less than twenty billions of miles from our earth; that one billion is no less than ten hundred thousand millions; and that had Adam commenced counting a billion as soon as he was created, and continued counting down to the present time, counting two every second, and working night and day, and rested only one day every four years, (which will be leap year), he would not have counted one billion of units—when we think of these things may we not say, "Who by searching can find out God," or with Job, "Is not God in the height of heaven," and, "Behold the height of the stars, how high they are,"—"Look now towards heaven and tell the stars if thou art able to number them."

Man has made great discoveries in boundless space; but we fear not to say that there will yet be still greater discoveries made in the science of Astronomy. We have men night and day watching the movements of the heavenly bodies with their powerful telescopes, and we believe, could they apply ten thousand times the power to their telescopes which they now have, that they would behold worlds upon worlds, suns upon suns, flying through boundless space, which have never as yet been seen by any mortal eye; no eye but the omniscient eye of God, who made them and sustains them in their orbits.

If knowledge is power, and we believe it is, power to command, power to move, power is the moving principle of all things. Man possesses this power more or less, and if this power is employed in contemplating the works of God in creation, providence or redemption, may we not expect the help of God? for that "He is strong in power, not one who faileth." "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

The diagram will assist us in forming an idea of the great number of letters which passed through the General Post Office in England, in the year 1866, which number was estimated at no less than 479 millions, or