

mass; and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.'*

"We cannot now detail what astronomers have said on the gradual condensation of these amorphous nebulosities into globular masses, nor of the increased brilliancy which follows a change of structure. May it suffice to say, their matter seems gradually to fall under the same laws of gravitation and motion which govern our system; but in the first instance one of their diurnal revolutions may occupy thousands of years, while as they condense into more solid and less bulky masses, their motion increases until their days, like those of our planet, from thousands of years are reduced to a few hours. Hundreds of instances given by our greatest astronomers, confirm the truth of this statement, and shew that the matter of these stars, by this rotatory motion, is separated and gradually solidified into a globe.

"If any one should doubt the power of glasses to bring such objects under our vision, to him we should say that the largest telescopes do peneRATE into distances perfectly beyond the limits of even our imaginations. The diameter of the orbit of our earth is about one hundred and ninety millions of miles; and, making it a sort of measuring rod, it is calculated that our largest glasses can descry luminous objects almost four hundred times more remote than Sirius, which is distant from our earth about thirty-six billions of miles.

"It would be foreign to our object to institute a comparison between the discoveries of modern astronomers and the record of Moses concerning the first state of the heavens and the earth, and the gathering together of our globe. I will only say that, as in geology, so in astronomy, the nigher we approach the truth, the more complete the evidence that no person in the times of Moses could have given such a description of the heavens and the earth, unless guided by the unerring hand of omniscient wisdom.

"We have made this reference to the diffused nebulosities, those chaotic vaporous masses which contain within them the seeds and elements of new suns and systems, and which in process of time are rolled up, condensed, and solidified into globes like ours, and fitted up for the production and residence of numerous and greatly diversified inhabitants, to show,—that when Moses says the old earth was without form and void, and enveloped in darkness, and that God separated the waters above and below the firmament, and darkness and light, and finally made the dry land appear, he only speaks in accordance with the modern discoveries of the great masters of astronomical science. And for another purpose, of greater interest with many—with a reference to the length of the six days, or the much higher antiquity that some geologists assign to our earth, compared with what is understood to be the Mosaic account of this matter. It is alleged that the fossil re-

* Keith, after quoting from Nicolls as above, "Nebulae or nebulous matter, i. e. cloud or cloudy, may be said to be indented with waters, designated as without form and void. Water in a void or diffused state, is vapour or cloud; hereby denoting a harmony of expression between Moses and the astronomers for a state of matter for which human language, as they confess, has no name."