

ing passage has been met with since the foregoing was written, and will form a suitable conclusion for this paper :—

"The Almighty convincing Job of his nothingness, asks of him, 'Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades?' (Chap. xxxviii. 31.) We can well imagine, some fifty years ago, or less, some philosopher, 'well up in the science of the day,' objecting strongly to this passage, as favouring Astrology, or as teaching that the stars influenced the weather. But one of the most wonderful of modern discoveries in Astronomy brings forth its true meaning, and establishes it as a fresh evidence of inspiration. We cannot do better here than quote from the interesting and eloquent work of Capt. Maury, of the Confederate Navy, on "The Physical Geography of the Sea." He observes :—

"The Bible frequently makes allusion to the Laws of Nature, their operation and effects. But such allusions are often . . . concealed, until the lights and revelations of science are thrown upon them; then they burst out and strike us with exquisite force and beauty. As our knowledge of nature and her laws has increased, so has our understanding of many passages in the Bible been improved. 'Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?' It has been recently all but proved, that the earth and sun, with their splendid retinue of comets, satellites, and planets, are all in motion around some point or centre of attraction inconceivably remote, and that that point is in the direction of the star Alcyone, one of the Pleiades."

"As the influence of the sun causes the earth and the other attendant planets to revolve in their orbits, even so does 'the influence' of this great central sun, situated in the 'Pleiades,' draw the whole of our solar and astral systems, including the 'Milkyway,' in a vast stupendous sweep around it: one such revolution requiring, it is calculated, the inconceivable period of 18,200,000 years! Thus the astronomer's wonderful researches have given a clear meaning to this question put to Job, and demonstrated that He asked it unto whom are known 'all his works from the beginning of the world.' If He has never left himself 'without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons;' so, to meet new risen objections, he has caused to be placed in the Bible such passages as this, which man may by his discoveries (often little thinking or wishing it) make to shine out as new evidence—'another morn' risen on mid-noon'—that the Author of Nature and of the Bible is ONE."\*

haps artificial, and not intended for historical purposes, and that it may have been used with some other view, by the inspired writer. It is probable that, if the ages of the patriarchs are examined carefully, they will be found to embody not chronological dates, but a rule for chronology, and to refer to even a greater cycle than the great year.

\* The above extract from an English author, whose name is not given, is quoted in a number of the Church Witness of St. John, New Brunswick.

The theory alluded to by Captain Maury, it should be remembered is still a *voxata questio* among astronomers. The quotation from Job suggests the fact, that from my having trusted to my memory in referring, in the paper on the Festival of the Dead, to the same passage, the word "pleasant" was inadvertently substituted for "sweet"—an error which will be explained and excused by the large mass of authorities which it was necessary to examine and compare. The correctness even of the authorized version is a subject of discussion. See Barnes' notes on Job, ch. ix. 9.