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Miscellaneous Articles.

IS THERE A PLURALITY OF INHABITED WORLDS IN THE UNIVERSE?

It is under the scenery of night that this question comes home forcibly to the thoughtful mind. During the day, the unrivalled splendour of the glorious sun keeps altogether out of view every other luminary within our range of vision throughout space but himself,—he is then the sole monarch of light. But when he retires at sunset beyond the other side of our self-revolving globe, what a magnificent spectacle is presented to us, on a clear night, and in our transparent Canadian atmosphere! Looking upward, over the cerulean arch, spread above as a vast and gorgeous canopy, we behold the silver moon walking in her brightness, and thousands of brilliant stars sparkling like so many golden gems. If we have acquired some astronomical knowledge, we can group them, according to their relative positions, and thus construct a curious map of these celestial orbs. And if we have it in our power to survey and examine the visible heavens through a powerful telescope, what additional wonders and glories do we descry! The more powerful the instrument through which we look, the more splendid and marvellous does the scene become, and the objects of our admiration are vastly multiplied,—*millions* now appearing where the naked eye saw only *thousands*. What is called *the milky way*, and which seems to the eye like a bright path along the sky, when scanned with the telescope of Herschel, and especially with the later, and far greater one, of Lord Rosse, is discovered to be composed of innumerable stars, the distances of which from us are immensely greater than the more visible stars. And there can be no doubt that if still larger telescopes than