

again, have said, that he was combating the wind, for that no person ever was troubled with the difficulty which he attempts to remove ; but I am persuaded that there are very few minds, accustomed to reflection and inquiry, to which this objection has not, at some time or other, suggested itself. To set it for ever at rest, if it caused any disturbance to a single mind, was worthy of a Christian minister.—“Does not the largeness of the field which Astronomy lays open to the view of modern science, throw a suspicion over the Gospel history ? and how shall we reconcile the greatness of that wonderful movement which was made in heaven for the redemption of fallen man, with the comparative meanness and obscurity of our species ?” This the Doctor engages to reconcile, and with complete success ; and if, after performing his proposed task, he indulges somewhat in fanciful conjectures, they are surrounded with splendid images and original conceptions. It would be a pleasing task to us, and no less so our readers, to brighten our pages by inserting some of the most brilliant of these passages ; but we hasten to the object of this article.

Dr. Chalmers was now admired, not only as a most eloquent and successful preacher, but as a literary man of the first rank, remarkable for the great energy of his thoughts, and the correctness of his reasonings. He had evinced, not only a most solid acquaintance with the Scriptures, and every thing connected with his profession, but likewise with the arts and sciences, and his Sermons on Astronomy present a most satisfactory proof of his intimate knowledge of that subject. These valuable qualifications induced the proprietors of the Scotch Encyclopædia to request him to write an article on the evidence of the Christian religion, to be inserted in the Supplement to that work, which they were then printing. In complying with this request, he was associated with the first literary and philosophical characters of the age, and came behind none of them in performing the task assigned him. The work was inserted in the Encyclopædia, and continued in a great degree hid from the world, but its great excellence began after a short time to attract attention, and the proprietors, with a liberality that does them honour, allowed it to be printed separately, and sold cheap, for the use of the public. This work is, in many respects, so clear and convincing, that we shall return to it in some future number, and gratify our readers with some beautiful extracts, while at present we proceed to the volume of Ser-