

which circumference is estimated at 24 thousand 912 miles, its diameter being about 8000 miles, and the number of square miles on its surface about 197 millions. Since the creation of the world, according to our chronology, but little more than two millions of days have elapsed; only little more than twice the number on the diagram. The diagram is on the decimal principle. We behold first the small square, containing one hundred units; the larger square contains ten thousand; and the diagram contains 100 of these squares, making ten hundred thousand or *one million*. It is believed that the decimal principle will be generally adopted. The money of Canada is to be on this principle; it is general all through the States. It is estimated that the population of the world at the present time is eleven hundred millions or eleven hundred times the number in the diagram. If a man were employed to count the population of the world, counting one person every second, and working twelve hours a day, it would take him 69 years. If we take the national debt of England at eight hundred millions of sovereigns, and a man were set to count that number, counting one every second of time, and working twelve hours a day, it would take fifty years before the task could be completed. Such facts help to assist the mind to comprehend one million units. A *million*, as great as it is, only counts as a unit in the science of astronomy. What great discoveries have been made in this science, and still are making up to the present time. If we take the sun, that mighty luminary which enlightens our day; all animated beings rejoice at his presence, millions of insect tribes awake and sport in his beams, the birds salute him with their concerts, yea, every thing that breathes feels the effect of his influence—man watches for the morning and rejoices at its approach; truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. He also gives circulation to the sap in trees—he causes the blossoms and leaves to shoot, and the fruits of the earth to ripen to a golden harvest for supplying the wants of man and beast. Where is the mind that can contemplate this mighty luminary which is the cause of light, and color, and heat, without exclaiming—"Behold He hath done all things well." Let us consider the vast distance this sun is from us—no less than 95 millions of miles; 95 times the diagram. In order that we may have a better understanding of this distance, we will suppose a cannon ball leaving the mouth of the cannon, and flying at the rate of five hundred miles an hour, as it is calculated to do, it would take twenty-one years and two hundred and forty-five days before it would reach the sun. Or suppose a steam locomotive to set out in the direction of the sun, and to go at the rate of 480 miles every day, it would require 547 years before this locomotive could reach the sun. The Sun's diameter is 880,000 miles, its circumference is two millions seven hundred and sixty-four thousand six hundred miles, and yet this is only one sun out of myriads perhaps that are flying through boundless space. The light that we receive from day to day comes from the sun in less than nine minutes of time, so that light travels more than ten millions of miles in a minute, or would go eight times round our earth while a person is counting *one*. It is not to be wondered that the sun appears so small to us, seeing its immense dis-