

mark the progressive development of suns and systems? The genius of Herschel has effected this wonderful achievement, and explained the successive changes by which suns and worlds are formed, through the agency of the eternal and unerring laws of the Almighty. By laborious and unremitting observations, that illustrious philosopher, and his highly gifted son, have demonstrated the progress of nebular condensation,—not indeed from the appearances presented by a single nebula, (for the process, probably, can only become sensible through the lapse of hundreds, or thousands, of years,) but by observations on the almost endless series of related, contemporaneous objects in every varied state of progression, from that of a cloud of luminous vapour, to the most dense and mighty orbs that appear in the firmament. As the naturalist in the midst of a forest is unable by a glance to discover that the trees around him are in a state of progressive change; yet perceiving that there are plants in different stages of growth, from the acorn just bursting from the soil to the lofty oak that stands the monarch of the woods, can readily, from the succession of changes thus at once presented to his view, ascertain the progression of vegetable life, although extending over a period far beyond his own brief existence:—in like manner, the astronomer, by surveying the varied condition of the heavenly bodies around him, can, by careful induction, determine the nature of those changes, which,