

26. MRS. SOMERVILLE ON METEORITES.—That ornament and pride of her sex, Mrs. Somerville, has the following interesting remarks on this subject:—
“ So numerous are the objects which meet our view in the heavens, that we cannot imagine a part of space where some light would not strike the eye: innumerable stars—thousands of double and multiple systems—clusters in one blaze with their ten thousands of stars—and the nebulæ amazing us by the strangeness of their forms; till at last, from the imperfection of our senses, even these thin and airy phantoms vanish in the distance. If such remote bodies shone by reflected light, we should be unconscious of their existence; each star must then be a sun, and may be presumed to have its system of planets, satellites, and comets, like our own; and for aught we know, myriads of bodies may be wandering in space, unseen by us, of whose nature we can form no idea, and still less of the part they perform in the economy of the universe. Nor is this an unwarranted presumption: many such do come within the sphere of the earth’s attraction, are ignited by the velocity with which they pass through the atmosphere, and are precipitated with great violence to the earth. The fall of meteoric stones is much more frequent than is generally believed: hardly a year passes without some instances occurring; and if it be considered that only a small part of the earth is inhabited, it may be presumed that numbers fall into the ocean, or on