

states of condensation, formed a central luminary, and its attendant planets; it also instructs us, that it is but one inconsiderable cluster of orbs, in regard to the group of stars to which it belongs, and of which the milky-way appears to be, as it were, a girdle; the solar system being placed in the outer and less stellar part of the zone.\* But the astounding fact, that all our visible universe is but an aggregation, a mere cluster of suns and worlds, which to the inhabitants of the remote regions, that can be reached only by our telescopes, would seem but a mere luminous spot, like one which lies near the outermost range of observation, and appears to be a fac-simile of our own—impresses on the mind a feeling of awe, of humility, and of adoration of that Supreme Being, to whom worlds, and suns, and systems, are but as the sand on the sea-shore!

Again, when conducted by our investigations to the invisible universe beneath us, the *milky-way*, and the *fixed stars*, of animal life, which the microscope reveals to us, we are overpowered with the contemplation of the minutest as well as of the mightiest of His works! And if, as an eminent philosopher observes, our planetary system was gradually evolved from a primeval condition of matter, and contained within itself the elements of each subsequent change, still we must believe, that every physical phenomenon which has taken place,

\* See Mr. Whewell's Bridgewater Essay.