

how shall we survey this fair creation—so capacious, and well-ordered, and munificently stored—and not rise from the work to the Agent, from the gift to the Benefactor, till even these stupendous wonders around us are forgotten in the admiration of perfections, by which they are infinitely transcended!

‘These are thy glorious works, Parent of good—
Almighty! thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair! thyself how wondrous, then!
Unspeakable! who sit'st above these heavens,
To us invisible, or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works; yet these declare
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine.’

PARAD. LOST, b. v.

In these preliminary observations, I have shortly developed the nature of the argument, derived from final causes, for the Being and Perfections of God. It may be thus expressed more formally: Whatever proves design, proves the existence of a designing agent. If the design manifested were small in its character, there would be no need to suppose the agent great. But if the design shown be so vast, so grand, so stupendous, so overwhelming, that we cannot