

example, the concurrence of ten such circumstances to bring about a useful result, the argument for design founded on this concurrence has inconceivably greater force than when it requires only three or four. According to the doctrine of chances, the evidence should grow in a rapid multiple ratio with the increase in the number of those contingent things which enter into an arrangement, and are indispensable to the effect of it. It is precisely for this reason that anatomy is so much more prolific of argument for a God than astronomy. There is a vastly greater number of independent parts and relations in the anatomical system, than when viewed largely and generally, the only way in which it can be viewed by us, there is in the system of the heavens. There is a prodigiously more concentrated proof of contrivance within the little compass of an eye, than in the wide survey of an astronomer there is within the compass of the planetarium. Hence the more slender evidence for a God in the great movements of astronomy. The number of independent circumstances which meet together upon the arena of this wondrous science is comparatively small—A great body in the centre kept there by the one law of gravitation, which binds upon it the attendance of its revolving worlds—a single impulse upon each of these worlds to impress upon them both the projectile and the rotatory movements, though so regulated we admit as to secure a nearly circular orbit to them all—the inclination of the axis in most of them to the orbit of revolution, which could still have been impressed in dependence on the