

Now, though in certain departments of Creation we are presented with noble specimens of this, yet, in far the greater number of instances, there seems what one might be led to regard as a useless complexity—not useless in reference to the actual constitution of things; but useless in reference to the powers of Him who ordained that constitution, and, might, had it so pleased Him, have, by means of another constitution and a far simpler economy, wrought out, we are apt to imagine, the great end or ends of His creation. We must admit of astronomy that it offers the finest examples of this alliance between simplicity and greatness—more especially in that beautiful planetarium which set a-going by one impulse, and animated by one simple force, contrasts so advantageously with the ethereal whirlpools, and the complicated cycles and epicycles of human imagination. We cannot afford to expatiate on the variety of great and good results that come forth of the one law of gravitation—else, beside the leading planetary movements, we might have noticed among other effects, the power of each planet to compel the attendance of secondaries—those lamps on the roof of night which afford so beauteous a supplement to the day's accommodation; and the power of those secondaries on the other hand, not to enlighten only but to produce wholesome agitation in the sea and atmosphere of planets, by means of tides in the air and tides in the ocean. Another splendid example of a mighty consequence emerging from a simple cause, is that the mere inclination of a line to a plane should give rise to the bene-