

retrogressive explanations as far as they can; and so far, that is to the uttermost limits of science, to the full extent of her possible observations, all might appear to move, or rather, might actually move, in strictly undeviating order. But still, ulterior to this, and between the remotest confines of all which nature can see upon the one hand, and that throne whence the Author of Nature issues forth His mandates, upon the other—there is a hidden intermediate process which connects the purposes of the divine mind, with the visible phenomena of that universe which He has created: and, not among the palpable things which lie exposed to view in the region of observation, but among the secret things which lie in the deep and the dark abyss that is between the furthest reach of man's discovery and the forthgoings of God's will—it is among these, where that responsive touch may be given by the finger of the Almighty, which shall guide the mechanism of the world; and without thwarting any of its ascertained laws. The limit of our investigation is not the commencement of the series. It has anterior steps yet undiscovered, and perhaps undiscoverable by us, among the depths of meteorology. It may be there, and not among the patent regularities of nature, where the answer to prayer is germinated—so as to ensure a prosperous voyage, yet without one change which philosophy with all her instruments can detect in the established successions of the universe. For this, He moves the springs which lie behind the curtain of sense and observation. But before that curtain, or in the eyes of us, the spectator of