

THE ATTRACTIONS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH ASTRONOMICALLY ILLUSTRATED.

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. — *Philippians* i. 23, 24.

ATTRACTION and repulsion are the two great principles by which the spiritual, as well as the material, world is controlled. The former tends to unite mind to mind and matter to matter, the latter to drive them asunder. And the struggle that is going on between them originates most of the movements of matter and of mind in the universe. When we speak, however, of mental attractions and repulsions, we use language figuratively. We mean by the first only those mutual affections which unite those who have similar opinions, and feelings, and aims; and by the latter we mean those antipathies which result from dissimilar opinions, feelings, and aims. There is, however, a strong analogy between the literal attractions and repulsions of matter and the affections and antipathies of mind, so that the latter may be illustrated by the former. And to some illustrations of this sort I wish to call your attention at this time.

The text represents Paul as almost balanced between two powerful attractions — those of heaven and those of earth.