

the new and powerful impulse which speculation and scepticism have given him ; and the more the Bible and its doctrines sink in his estimation, the less is the hold of practical religion over his heart. In short, his path is becoming wider and wider from God and heaven, and of course their power over his heart and conscience is less, while the force which urges him away from God is gathering strength ; nor can we have any hope but in the all-powerful grace of God that his wanderings will ever cease.

I proceed to a second illustration, which may be derived from the relative situation and mutual attraction of the sun, earth, and moon. When the moon is exactly between the earth and sun, it is obvious that it will be attracted in opposite directions by these bodies ; and it is only because it is so much nearer the earth than the sun, that it is not at once drawn away towards the latter so as utterly to forsake the former. It is easy, now, to conceive that it might be removed so near to the sun, (say to A, Fig. 5,) that it should henceforth cease to be governed in its movements by the earth, and obey only the attractive influence of the sun. On the other hand, it might be brought so near the earth, — certainly, if brought in contact with it, (say to B,) — as to be governed entirely by it, and no longer be affected by the sun's attraction, except as constituting a part of the earth.

This last supposition reminds us of the individual who has suffered the love of the world to gain so strong a hold upon him that he is beyond the reach of the influence of religion. He cleaves to the world as firmly as the moon would, should she fall from her orbit. Heaven, with all its glories, exerts upon him apparently no power. It matters not that all in the universe which is pure, and noble, and truly worthy is there assembled. They have no charms for him. There are un-