A.

RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS IN THE URANOLOGICAL POR-TION OF THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD.

WE again commence with the depths of cosmical space, and the remote sporadic starry systems, which appear to telescopic vision as faintly shining *nebulæ*. From these we gradually descend to the double stars, revolving round one common center of gravity, and which are frequently bicolored, to the nearer starry strata, one of which appears to inclose our own planetary system; passing thence to the air-and-ocean-girt terrestrial spheroid which we inhabit. We have already indicated, in the introduction to the *General Delineation of Nature*,* that this arrangement of ideas is alone suited to the character of a work on the Cosmos, since we can not here, in accordance with the requirements of direct sensuous contemplation, begin with our own terrestrial abode, whose surface is animated by organic forces, and pass from the apparent to the true movements of cosmical bodies.

The *uranological*, when opposed to the *telluric* domain of the Cosmos, may be conveniently separated into two divisions, one of which comprises *astrognosy*, or the region of the *fixed stars*, and the other our *solar and planetary system*. It is unnecessary here to describe the imperfect and unsatisfactory nature of such a nomenclature and such classifications. Names were introduced into the physical sciences before the differences of objects and their strict limitations were sufficiently known.† The most important point, however, is the connection of ideas, and the order in which the objects are to be considered. Innovations in the nomenclature of groups, and a deviation from the meanings hitherto attached to well-known names, only tend to distract and confuse the mind.

a. ASTROGNOSY. (THE DOMAIN OF THE FIXED STARS.)

Nothing is stationary in space. Even the fixed stars move, as Halley‡ endeavored to show in reference to Sirius,

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* *Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 79–83.   † *Op. cit.*, p. 56, 57
‡ Halley, in the *Philos. Transact. for* 1717, vol. xxx., p. 736.