## ON LIGHT.

reflected is the only portion which can be rendered sensible to sight or otherwise traced. But if transparent, a very remarkable phænomenon occurs. The incident ray is, as it were, split or subdivided at the point where it meets the surface of the body; one portion pursuing its subsequent course outside of it, as a reflected ray, in the manner above described; the other within it, undergoing what is called "*refraction*," being bent aside from its former direction at its point of entry, after which it pursues a straight course within the substance or "medium."

(23.) If the "refracting medium" be a liquid, a glass, a jelly, or any substance in which no indications of inequality of internal texture can be discovered-no signs of lamination or "grain" shown by a greater tendency to split or " cleave" in one direction more than another, this intromitted portion is single. The whole of the refracted light pursues its course from the point of its entry as one ray. The same is also the case when the refracting medium belongs to the class of bodies called "crystallized," or which present a definite "cleavage ;" provided the. " primitive form" of their crystals be either a cube, a regular octohedron, or a rhomboidal dodecahedron, such as rock-salt, alum, or garnet. In all other transparent crystals the intromitted portion of the light divides itself from the moment of its entry into two distinct rays, pursuing different courses, and presenting the phænomenon known under the name of "double refraction," such substances being called "doublyrefractive media," of which the substance called Iceland Spar, or crystallized carbonate of lime, offers a beautiful

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