

rebellious and impracticable phenomenon, has to practise a force upon herself, when she thus finds the goodly speculation superseded by the homely and unwelcome experience. It seemed at the outset a cruel sacrifice, when the world of speculation, with all its manageable and engaging simplicities, had to be abandoned ; and, on becoming the pupils of observation, we, amid the varieties of the actual world around us, felt as if bewildered, if not lost, among the perplexities of a chaos. This was the period of greatest sufferance, but it has had a glorious termination. In return for the assiduity wherewith the study of nature had been prosecuted, she hath made a more abundant revelation of her charms. Order hath arisen out of confusion ; and in the ascertained structure of the universe, there are now found to be a state and a sublimity, beyond all that was ever pictured by the mind, in the days of her adventurous and unfettered imagination. Even viewed in the light of a noble and engaging spectacle for the fancy to dwell upon, who would ever think of comparing with the system of Newton, either that celestial machinery of Des Cartes, which was impelled by whirlpools of ether, or that still more cumbrous machinery of cycles and epicycles which was the progeny of a remoter age ! It is thus that at the commencement of this observational process, there is an abjuration of beauty. But it soon reappears in another form, and brightens as we advance ; and there at length