

hand, and which kindle in us the most ardent desire of supplying the wide chasms perpetually intervening in the mysterious and inspiring narrative. But in the subject which now claims our attention we have been permitted to trace, for a considerable extent, the continuity of the design, and the lengthened series of means employed for carrying that design into execution; and the view which is thus unfolded of the magnificent scheme of creation is calculated to give us the most sublime ideas of **THE WISDOM, THE POWER, AND THE BENEVOLENCE OF GOD.**

On none of the works of the Creator, which we are permitted to behold, have the characters of intention been more deeply and legibly engraved than on the organ of vision, where the relation of every part to the effect intended to be produced is too evident to be mistaken, and the mode in which they operate is at once placed within the range of our comprehension. Of all the animal structures, this is, perhaps, the one which most admits of being brought into close comparison with the works of human art; for the eye is, in truth, a refined optical instrument, the perfection of which can never be fully appreciated until we have instituted such a comparison; and the most profound scientific investigations of the anatomy and physiology of the eye concur in showing that the whole of its structure is most accurately and skilfully adapted to the physical laws of light, and that all its parts are finished with that mathematical exactness which the precision of the effect requires, and which no human effort can ever hope to approach,—far less to attain.

To the prosecution of this inquiry we are farther invited by the consciousness of the incalculable advantages we derive from the sense of sight, the choicest and most enchanting of our corporeal endowments. The value of this sense must, indeed, appear inestimable, when we consider of how large a portion of our sensitive and intellectual existence it is the intermediate source. Not only has it given us extensive command over the objects which surround us, and enabled us to traverse and explore the most distant regions of the