

from their disregard of the word of God, and from seeking too exclusively their own glory, have fallen into errors of no small magnitude. It is singular, and worthy of observation, that both have based their hypothesis upon a similar foundation. La Place says, "An attentive inspection of the solar system evinces the necessity of some central paramount force, in order to maintain the entire system together and secure the regularity of its motions."\* One would expect from these remarks, that he was about to enforce the necessity of acknowledging the necessary existence of an intelligent paramount central Being, whose goings forth were co-extensive with the universe of systems, to create them at first, and then maintain their several motions and revolutions, so as to prevent them from becoming eccentric and interfering with each other,† thus—*Upholding all things by the word of his power.* But no—when he asks the question, What is the primitive cause?‡ instead of answering it immediately, he refers the reader for his hypothesis to a concluding note, in which we find that this *primitive* cause, instead of the Deity, is a nebulosity originally so diffuse, that its existence can with difficulty be conceived.§ To produce a system like ours, one of these wandering masses of nebulous matter distributed through the immensity of the heavens,|| is converted into a brilliant nucleus, with an atmosphere originally extending beyond the orbits of all its planets, and then gradually contracting itself, but at its successive limits leaving zones of vapours, which, by their condensation, formed the several planets and their satellites, including the rings of Saturn!!¶

It is grievous to see talents of the very highest order, and to which Natural Philosophy, in other respects, is so

\* System of the World, E. Tr. ii. 330.

† Ibid. Appendix, concluding note.

§ Ibid. 357.

|| Ibid. 332.

‡ Ibid. ii. 328.

¶ Ibid. 358.