

we shall find to be the sentiment more clearly declared in other places.

Consonant with this, is a verse in the same connexion. "He hath drawn a limiting circle upon the surface of the waters, to the boundary of light with darkness."* The idea is that of a disc drawn with a compass-instrument, consisting of the whole earth, surrounded by water, and beyond which, on every side and beneath, all was perpetual darkness and a dead waste. The same representation is in the Book of Proverbs; "In his cutting out a circle upon the surface of the deep."†

Other passages speak of extremities, as bounding lines of the earth; and of pillars or supports of some kind upon which it rests. In some places these boundaries are represented as points, the summits of angles: but it is not necessarily to be thence deduced that the idea entertained concerning the figure of the earth was that of a four-sided plane; for the expression would naturally arise from contemplating the two opposite points marked by the sun's rising and setting, and the two which lie transversely to them. The Hebrew words for denoting each of these four quarters (called *wings*) of the heavens or of the earth, are several in each instance; and thus they afford us an insight into the ideas of the Israelites upon the characteristics of the cardinal points. The words for the East signify *radiating, a luminous space, and before*, that is, referring to the position of a person who has his face towards the rising sun; those for the West, express *going away, going down, behind the sea*, namely the Mediterranean; those for the North, *darkness, gloominess, the left hand*; and those for the South, *light, the*

* Verse 10. The closest translation. That in the Common Version is not sufficiently exact.

† Chap. viii. 27; closely translated.