

nugatory. If it had any application to the matter at all, it would rather go to darken the evidence of a proper creation being here asserted, or declared in any other part of the Bible. Such aid was not needed.

Whether the original writer of this sacred archive was Moses, or whether he was placing at the head of his work, a composition of an earlier patriarch, the calm majesty and simplicity of the declaration give, as a matter of internal evidence, the strong presumption that he spoke with authority; that he only repeated what the Omniscient Spirit had commanded him to say and write. The declaration is, in the New Testament, adduced as an object of *faith*; which implies a divine testimony.\*

What was the condition or constitution of the first created matter?—Certainly it falls within the province of General Physics to examine this question: and if the investigation be conducted in the true spirit of philosophy, which is modest, reverential, and cautious,—in a word, the spirit of genuine religion,—though it may not be demonstratively answered in the present life, yet valuable approximations may be made to it. The nebular hypothesis, ridiculed as it has been by persons whose ignorance cannot excuse their presumption, is regarded as in a very high degree probable by some of the finest and most Christian minds.† If I may venture to utter my own

\* Heb. xi. 3.

† If the reader be not already acquainted with the nature and the reasons of this doctrine, he owes himself a great duty. Let him consult Prof. Whewell's *Bridgewater Treatise*, book II. chap. vii.; Dr. Mantell's *Wonders of Geology*, Lect. I. § 17, 18; and Prof. Nichol's *Architecture of the Heavens*, Letters vii. and viii. "The Nebular Hypothesis, in its relations to the Planetary System, may be termed *complete*; it comprehends its *beginnings*, establishes those elements on which its *duration* depends, and exhibits the causes and mode of its ultimate *transition* into a novel form.—Surely the vision of these unfathomable changes, of the solemn march of these majestic heavens from phase to phase, obediently fulfilling their awful destiny, will be lost on the heart of the adorer, unless—it