

impressions, I must profess it as the most reasonable supposition, and the correlate of the nebular theory, that God originally gave being to the primordial elements of things, the very small number of simple bodies, endowing each with its own wondrous properties. Then, that the action of those properties, in the ways which his wisdom ordained, and which we call laws, produced, and is still producing, all the forms and changes of organic and inorganic natures; and that the series is by HIM destined to proceed, in combinations and multiplications ever new, without limit of space or end of duration, to the unutterable admiration and joy of all holy creatures, and to the eternal display of His glory “who fixed the wondrous frame.”

Ver. 2. “And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”

The first inquiry here is, What relation does this paragraph bear to the preceding? Is it the relation of close connexion, an immediate sequence; or does it only express posteriority, without defining the separating interval? My conviction is, not the former, but the latter.

The question will be answered by attending to the connecting particle. As it is rendered in our Version, it naturally excites the idea of immediate sequence. But a few words will show that this would be an unwarranted inference from the expression in the original. This prefixed conjunction is the general connecting particle of the language; but the *mode* of connexion may be extremely

swells with that humility which is the best homage to the SUPREME!—Between us and the HIGHEST there is still vastness and mystery.—To take wing beyond terrestrial precincts, perhaps is not wholly forbidden, provided we go with unsandalled feet, as if on holy ground.—An order hanging tremblingly over nothingness, and of which every constituent—fails not to beseech incessantly for a substance and substratum, in the idea of ONE, WHO LIVETH FOR EVER?” Nichol.