

than I can do, by one of my colleagues.\* I pass, therefore, to another important sign in the great zodiac of human knowledge. On that circle mathematics follows naturally after metaphysics, because it furnishes us with the noblest examples of abstract truth in the universe.

But I fancy that I hear one and another whispering, "What possible connection can there be between mathematics and religion?" The pure abstractions of this science do not, indeed, lead the mind directly to a Deity, since they may be conceived to be necessary and eternal truths. They are not the result of an induction from facts, but of a comparison of ideas. And it is the facts of the natural world that most strikingly discover to us the wonders of adaptation and design, and lead the mind irresistibly to infer a Supreme Being. But what is the basis on which most of this adaptation and design rests? Chiefly, I answer, the laws of mathematics. Look up to the heavens, and you will find those laws controlling all the movements of suns and planets with infallible precision. Every movement on earth, also, which is either mechanical or chemical, is equally dependent upon mathematical laws. Vital operations, too, so far as they result from chemical and mechanical forces, must be referred to the same principles. I do not assert that life and intellect are governed by mathematical laws; but their operations have all the precision of mathematics, and, I doubt not, could be predicted by angelic minds, certainly by the Deity, with as much certainty as the astronomer foretells an eclipse or transit; and really I do not see but the same principles would guide the calculation in the one case as in the other. In short, so entirely dependent are the movements of the universe upon mathematical laws, that

\* Professor Fiske's Address at East Windsor.