

join that happy circle! — a circle which sin can never pollute, nor death ever break. O, what a happy state is it, thus to live under the full influence of the heavenly world, thus to feel its strong attractions, thus to have its spirit breathed into our souls, and thus, as it were, to begin its songs and its joys while yet on earth!

I derive my third illustration from the manner in which the earth and moon perform their journey together around the sun, and around each other. This is not generally understood. We know that the moon accompanies the earth around the sun, and we see it every month complete its revolution around the earth. We are hence apt to infer that its actual path must be an exceedingly irregular curve. But it is not so. Excepting some very slight disturbances of its motion, which need not here be taken into the account, its actual path in the heavens differs very slightly from that which the earth makes in its annual revolution; that is, it differs very little from a circle. Indeed, were the moon's path to be drawn thirty feet in diameter, it would require a practised eye to distinguish the curve from a true circle. (Fig. 4 shows the paths of the earth and moon for one month; the black line representing the earth's orbit, and the red one the moon's path.)

Thus it appears that the moon, as well as the earth, obeys the influence of the sun in its annual revolution; and yet it does actually move round the earth, and perform important service for its inhabitants every month. And it is to these two facts in connection that I wish to call your particular attention.

It is a well-known fact, that the most eminently holy Christians frequently exhibit a very strong and tender affection for their families, if they have any, or for their friends and neighbors, and manifest a deep interest in secular pursuits, and in