

LECTURE II.

THE SUN.



THE subject I have chosen for this Lecture is perhaps an ambitious one ; for it is no less than an attempt to convey to my hearers some faint impression of the vastness and grandeur of the most magnificent object in nature—of that glorious body which occupies the centre of our planetary system, and on which not only our own globe, but all the other planets, many of them of far greater magnitude and possibly too of greater importance in the scale of being than our own ; depend in the most immediate manner for the fulfilment of those conditions without which animated existence and organic life are impossible—THE SUN. There is a poem of Byron's entitled "Darkness," which begins thus :—

"I had a dream which was not all a dream,
The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the earth
Did wander darkling in th' eternal space
Rayless and pathless,"