

tude of other phænomena, *less clearly intelligible*, which the sidereal heavens present, and to which our subject has not led us to refer), we trace the same inexhaustible fecundity of design realized and embodied in the same unity of workmanship which in this our planetary system we find luxuriating in so surprising a variety of forms, magnitudes, and mutual relations among its primaries, satellites, rings, comets, and asteroids.

(43.) Is the material universe finite or infinite? The question is as old as Aristotle; and the answer, though *unanswerable*, never yet convinced mortal man. A material universe must consist of material objects, each individual of which, being a really existing thing, must possess that attribute of all real existing things, place. Every two objects then, be they where they will at any certain moment of time, mark *two definite places*, and the distance between them, or the straight line joining them, has two definite *terminations*. It is not therefore infinite in length, but finite, *i.e.*, terminated. Now an assemblage of objects, *every two* of which are distant from each other by a finite interval, cannot be infinite in extent. The speculation is unprofitable enough in itself, and the difficulty it involves turns on the mental substitution of a positive and conceivable notion of "the infinite" for the purely negative and utterly inconceivable one which it carries with it into all matters where the term is employed in its logical sense. Our only reason for at all alluding to it is, that to *us*, practically speaking, the material universe must be regarded as infinite: seeing that we can perceive no reason which can place