


## LECTURE VI.

### ON LIGHT,

PART I.—REFLEXION—REFRACTION—DISPERSION—  
COLOUR—ABSORPTION.

N a conversation held some years ago by the author of these pages with his lamented friend, Dr Hawtrey, Head-Master and late Provost of Eton College, on the subject of Etymology, I happened to remark that the syllable *Ur* or *Or* must have had some very remote origin, having found its way into many languages, conveying the sense of something absolute, solemn, definite, fundamental, or of unknown antiquity, as in the German words *Ur-alt* (primeval), *Ur-satz* (a fundamental proposition), *Ur-theil* (a solemn judgment)—in the Latin *Oriri* (to arise), *Origo* (the origin), *Aurora* (the dawn)—in the Greek ὄρος (a boundary, a mountain, the extreme limit of our vision, whence our *horizon*), ὄραω (to see), ὀρθός (straight, just, right), ὀρκος (an oath or solemn sanction), ὄραι (the seasons, the great natural divisions of time), &c. “You are right,” was his reply, “it is the oldest of