

all words; the first word ever recorded to have been pronounced. It is the Hebrew for LIGHT (אור AOR)."

(2.) Assuredly there is something in the phenomena of Light; in its universality; in the high office it performs in creation; in the very hypotheses which have been advanced as to its nature; which powerfully suggests the idea of the *fundamental*, the *primeval*, the antecedent and superior in point of rank and conception to all other products or results of creative power in the physical world. "It is LIGHT," as we took occasion to observe at the conclusion of the last lecture (not without reference to this very consideration), "and the free communication of it from the remotest regions of the universe, which alone can give, and does fully give us, the assurance of a uniform and all-pervading energy—a MECHANISM almost beyond conception complex, minute, and powerful, by which that influence, or rather that movement, is propagated. Our evidence of the existence of gravitation fails us beyond the region of the double stars, or leaves us at best only a presumption amounting to moral conviction in its favour. But the argument for a unity of design and action afforded by light stands unweakened by distance, and is co-extensive with the universe itself."*

(3.) What we propose in the following lecture is to make intelligible, in as simple language and form as the nature of the subject will admit, the grounds of this assertion. In some of its features it is too complex and abstruse to be thoroughly followed out by any one

* "Celestial Measurements and Weighings," p. 218.