

LECTURE VIII.

ON LIGHT.

PART III.—DOUBLE REFRACTION—POLARIZATION.



IN that most wonderful work, the Optics of Sir I. Newton, among the queries annexed at the end, occurs this very singular one: "Have not the rays of light different sides, endued with different original properties?"* The conception intended to be conveyed, as further illustrated by Newton himself, embodies that abstract notion of polarity which Dr Whewell in his "Philosophy of Inductive Science," expresses by "opposite qualities in opposite directions," or, as we should prefer to say, for this purpose, "different qualities in different directions," with reference (that is) to surrounding space and the objects therein situated. The same form of the general conception, as regards light, which Newton employed to designate the very same peculiarity in its habitudes, was adopted by Malus in his first announcement of the re-

* "Optics," Book iii., Query 26. 4th Edition.