

XI.

ON ATOMS.*

"I sing of atoms."—*Rejected Addresses.* ✕

DIALOGUE.—Hermogenes et Hermione interloquuntur.



HERMIONE.—What strange people those Greeks were? I was reading this morning about Democritus, "who first taught the doctrine of atoms and a vacuum." I suppose he must have meant that there is such a thing as utterly empty space, and that here and there, scattered through it, are things called atoms, like dust in the air. But then I thought, "What *are* these atoms?" for if this be true, then, these are all the world, and the rest is—nothing!

Hermogenes.—Yes. That is the natural conclusion: unless there be something that does not need space to exist in; or unless there be *things* that are not mate-

* From the *Fortnightly Review*.

✕ Address XV. p. 123 (in my copy)