

XII.

ON THE ORIGIN OF FORCE.*

“Mens agitat molem et magno se corpore miscet.”



WHAT is it that we ought to understand by the theory of any natural phænomenon? This is a question not without its importance when we are told, as we so frequently are, that it is useless to inquire into causes: that, in fact, causes are to us as though they were not; seeing that all we can ever attain to is the observation and registry of constant laws of phænomenal sequence:—in other words, that phænomenon succeeds phænomenon, event event, according to certain *rules*, which are all we have any business to inquire into.

(2.) It is unfortunate for this doctrine that within the range of every individual's momentary experience there occurs the phænomenon of *volition*; and that there are

* From the *Fortnightly Review*.