

gaged in the same or similar pursuits. Had they not been originated by the man who first made them known, they would have been originated almost contemporaneously by some one else. Almost all discovery has a similar course. Adams and Le Verrier were engaged at the same time in calculating the irregularities of Uranus, and inferred from them the existence and position of the great planet, actually discovered almost simultaneously, shortly after, by Dr Galle and Professor Challis ; and it is a known fact, that Mr Lassell and Professor Bond discovered on the same evening the eighth moon of Saturn, though the Atlantic flowed between them at the time. And we find a resembling simultaneousness of inference and conclusion exemplified by the work which has given occasion to the present controversy. The argument which it amplifies and expands, and, as we think, carries by much too far, and into conclusions not legitimate, was first given to the world seven years ere the appearance of this English volume, in the columns of a Scotch newspaper, and full six years in a separate work, published and rather extensively circulated both in Britain and America. And in glancing over the first edition of the "Essay on the Plurality of Worlds," we had expected—not, perhaps, taking sufficiently into account that simultaneity of thought at certain stages of acquirement to which we refer—that some acknowledgment ought to have been made to the writer who had originated the argument so long before. We ascertain, however, from the second edition of the English work now before us, that its author had framed his argument for himself, independently altogether of the previously published one. "I have no wish," he says, "to lay any stress upon the originality of the views presented in the Essay. I now know that, several years ago (in 1849), Hugh Miller, in his 'First Impressions of England' (chap. xvii.), presented *an argument from geology very much of the nature of that which I have employed*; and