

pher and a culprit in a humble van, attended by hundreds of unoccupied carriages and empty trucks." And, of course, were the unoccupied carriages to be lighted up with lamps apparently for the benefit of the passengers which they had not, and were these lamps to be fewer or more numerous in each case in meet proportion with the degree of darkness to be encountered, and as the necessities of actual passengers would require, the puzzle involved in the why and wherefore of the whole concern would be still increased. The old argument for the inhabitancy of the planets, regarded as an argument of *ultimate* design, still remains unaffected by the discoveries of the geologist.

But, on the other hand, let not the *modifying* influence of these discoveries be denied. Such is their effect on the argument, that though we may receive it in full as truly solid, we may yet, in perfect consistency with its conclusions, deem it a moot point whether there be *at the present time* a single inhabited world in the system save our own. We cannot express, either by figures or by algebraic signs, save by the signs that express unknown quantity, the geologic periods. We only know that they were of enormous extent. Let us, however, for the argument's sake, represent the period during which man has been upon earth by the sum 5000, the periods during which the successive plant-and-animal-bearing systems of the geologist were in being by the sum 1,000,000, and the earlier death periods, during which the gneiss, the older quartz rock, the mica schist, and the non-fossiliferous clay slate were formed, by the sum 500,000 ; and let us then suppose that some intellectual being, wise as a Newton, and reasoning on exactly his principles and those of Sir David Brewster, had existed during all these terms, converted into years, at a distance from the earth as great as that which separates the earth from the planets Mars or Venus ; farther, let us suppose that once in every five thousand years for the