

ment, infers that where there is light (joined, of course, to the other necessary conditions of life, such as planetary matter existing in the twofold form of solid nucleus and surrounding atmosphere) there must be eyes,—eyes, *therefore* light, solar or lunar, &c.,—light, solar or lunar, *therefore* eyes. And just as the geologic argument is in no ways invalidated by the fact that there are animals in the foetal state furnished with eyes darkly veiled in the womb, for which *light* does not *yet* exist, it in no degree invalidates the astronomical argument, that there have been, and most probably now are, *foetal* planets furnished with light, solar or lunar, for which *eyes* do not yet exist. Such, in this controversy, seems to be the due balance and adjustment of the opposite arguments,—astronomic and geologic arguments that modify, but in no degree destroy, each other.

We can of course do little more, within the limits of a single article, than just touch at a few points, on a subject upon which men such as Sir David Brewster, and, shall we say, Professor Whewell, fill each a volume apiece. Let us, however, submit to them, as very admirable, both in form and substance, the claims of geology, as stated by the English Professor :—

“Astronomy claims a sort of dignity over other sciences, from her *antiquity*, her *certainty*, and the *vastness* of her discoveries. But the *antiquity* of astronomy as a science had no share in such speculations as we are discussing; and if it had had, new truths are better than old conjectures; new discoveries must rectify old errors; new answers must remove old difficulties. The vigorous youth of geology makes her fearless of the age of astronomy. And as to the *certainty* of astronomy, it has just as little to do with these speculations. The certainty stops just where these speculations begin. There may, indeed, be some danger of delusion on this subject. Men have been so long accustomed to look upon astronomical science as the mother of certainty, that they may possibly confound astronomical discoveries with cosmological conjectures, though these be slightly and illogically connected with those. And then, as to the *vastness* of astronomical discoveries,—granting that character, inasmuch as it is to a certain degree a matter of measurement,—we must