

further informed that the earth is distant from the sun 95,000,000 of miles, and that light traverses the space in 8 minutes and 1-8th, it is but another way of affirming the inconceivable rapidity of its transmission. Astronomers, whose powers of mind afford us the very highest estimate of human faculties, whose accuracy of calculation is hourly visible to us, have affirmed that light emanates from celestial bodies at such vast distance, that thousands of years shall elapse during its progress to our earth: yet matter impelled by a force equal to its transmission through this space, enters the eye, and strikes upon the delicate nerve with no other effect than to produce vision.*

Instead of saying that light is created for the eye, and to give us the sense of vision, is it not more conformable to a just manner of considering these things that our wonder and our admiration should fix on the fact, that this small organ, the eye, is formed with relation to a creation of such vast extent and grandeur:—and more especially, that the ideas arising in the mind, through the influence of that matter and this organ, are constituted a part of this vast whole!

By such considerations we are led to contemplate the human body in its different relations. The magnitude of the earth determines the

* The argument is not weakened on assuming the hypothesis, that light results from the movement of an elastic ether.