

horizon of the stable earth, our globe is thought of as a ball rolling through space, amidst myriads besides, greater than it: the expression is excusable that—"the earth with man upon it does not seem much other than an ant-hill, where some ants carry corn, and some carry their young, and some go empty, and all to and fro, a little heap of dust."

We may consider man, before the lights of modern philosophy had their influence on his thoughts, as in a state more natural; in as much, as he yielded unresistingly to those sentiments which directly flow from the objects and phenomena around him. But when that period of society arrived, in which he made natural phenomena the subjects of experiment or of philosophical enquiry, then was there some danger of a change of opinion, not always beneficial to his state of mind. This danger does not touch the philosopher so much as the scholar. He who has strength of mind and ingenuity to make investigations into nature, will not be satisfied with the discovery of secondary causes—his mind will be enlarged, and the objects of his thoughts and aspirations become more elevated. But it is otherwise with those not themselves habituated to investigation, and who learn, at second hand, the result of those enquiries. If such a one sees the fire of heaven brought down into a phial, and materials com-