

herein stated of the celestial luminaries seems to be spoken solely with reference to our planet, and more especially to the human race, then about to be placed upon it. We are not told that the substance of the sun and moon were first called into existence upon the fourth day :* the text may equally imply that these bodies were then prepared, and appointed to certain offices, of high importance to mankind ; “ to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day, and over the night,” “ to be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years.” The fact of their creation had been stated before in the first verse. The stars also are mentioned (Gen. i. 16) in three words only, almost parenthetically ; as if for the sole purpose of announcing, that they also were made by the same Power, as those luminaries which are more important to us, the sun and moon.† This very slight notice of the countless host of celestial bodies, all of which are probably suns, the centres of other planetary systems, whilst our little satellite, the moon, is mentioned as next in importance to the sun, shows clearly that astronomical phenomena are here spoken of only according to their relative importance to our earth, and to mankind, and without any regard

* See notes, p. 22 and p. 26.

† The literal translation of the words *veeth huccocabim*, is, “ And the stars.”—E. B. Pusey.