

within the narrow sphere of our observation, naturally leads us to inquire, can this cause be infinite? And thus we are led by degrees, but irresistibly, to the sublimest of all conclusions; that a Cause or Agent, in every way commensurate with infinity—omniscient and omnipresent, eternal and omnipotent must exist—in other words, a God.

Compared, however, with infinity, and even with the objects of nature as they visibly exist around us, our actual knowledge of time and of space, is exceedingly limited. Like travellers on an extended plain, we see what is going on around us at the present moment; but the distant and the very near, the past and the future, are alike unknown to us. A few millions of miles, for example, or a few thousand years, comprise the utmost we know of space and of time. On the other hand, beyond the fraction of an inch, or of a second, every thing belonging to space and to time is inappreciable by our senses. Yet beyond these limits, we *know* that myriads of portions of space and of time must exist, too vast or too minute to be referred to our imperfect standards. Let us, for instance, take the distance of the nearest fixed star. This distance, we are assured by astronomers, is so great, that the utmost measure we can apply to it—the diameter of the earth's orbit—a space of no less than 192 millions of