

narrative? Light, and probably its attendant heat, are the most generally diffused and universal of all the subordinate agencies; so much so, that they are not confined to our globe, or even system, but extend throughout the universe. Their laws and influences, therefore, seem to be as general, and as necessary to the present order of things, as those of gravitation itself. The priority of existence also, of light and of heat, is self evident; for until they existed, nothing else, as we are acquainted with things, could have had existence. Now all subsequent creations have been made with the most exact regard to the influences of these prior agencies. The globe, for example, which we inhabit, is placed at a certain distance from the sun, the great centre of our system, and of light, and of heat; and where of course, according to the laws which light and heat obey, these agencies must act with a certain intensity. Hence it was necessary that the materials of our globe should have a certain degree of fixity; otherwise they could not exist. If, indeed, there had been no ulterior views, with respect to the destination of our globe; all that would have been requisite, would have been, to have made it sufficiently firm to move through space; and for this purpose the more homogeneous, and compact its composition had been, the better. But what are the facts? Our globe, though stable; so far from being