

**THE LUNAR WORLD,
ITS SCENERY,
MOTIONS, ETC.**

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The Lunar World, Its Scenery, Motions, Etc. by Josiah Crampton

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JOSIAH CRAMPTON

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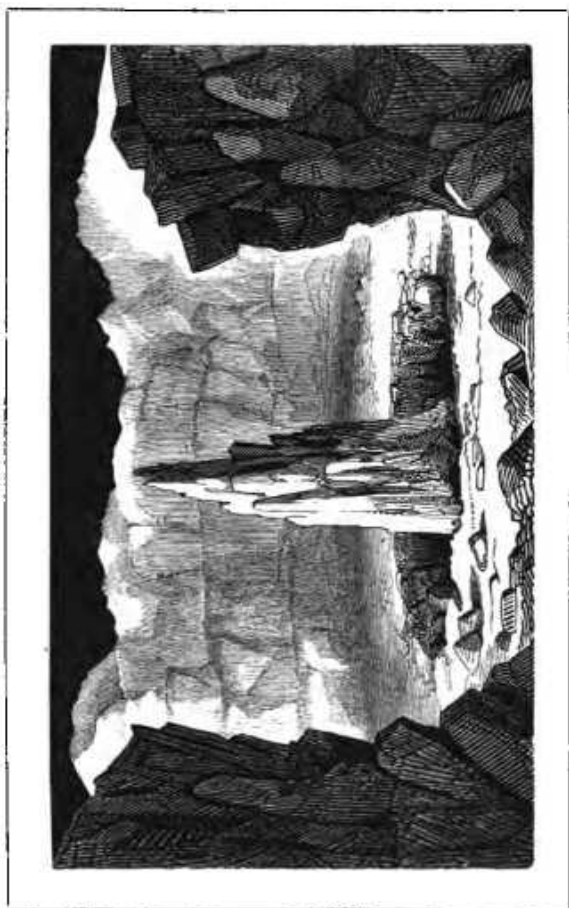


Plate VI.]

LUNAR CRATER.

THE
LUNAR WORLD

ITS SCENERY, MOTIONS, ETC.

CONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TO DESIGN.

BY JOSIAH CRAMPTON, A.M.

RECTOR OF KILLESNIER,

Author of 'Descriptive Astronomy,' 'Recent Discoveries,' etc.

"There is one glory of the Sun, and another of the Moon."

1 Cor. xv. 41.

EDINBURGH
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK
MDCCLXXIII.

~~180. c. 129.~~

184. c. 49.



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PREFACE.

It is a remarkable circumstance, that the increase of telescopic power has not done so much in the way of discovery upon the surface of the Moon as might naturally be expected, and as it *has* done in reference to other astronomical objects, such as the nebulae, etc.

None of the dreams of speculators upon a new world have as yet, at least, been realized in the case of our satellite; and what is *now* seen with monster telescopes is only what has been seen in the days of Galileo, Huyghens, and Newton, with instruments of more moderate pretensions, but a little more magnified in the present day. A gulf of space, however, still remains between us and

our nearest neighbour in the heavens, which it is still questionable whether it will be permitted to man ever to pass.

If, indeed, there is a possibility or probability of it, it will be at least tested by the two gigantic and magnificent rival instruments in preparation for it—viz., Lord Rosse's reflector and Mr. Craig's refractor. If two eyes be better than one, we may naturally expect that two giant telescopes will do more than one; but the former of these, as was suggested at the meeting of the British Association at Belfast, last Autumn, by the President, is to be directed by its noble proprietor to a systematic and close survey of the lunar regions: and as Dr. Robinson has stated that a space of seventy yards on the lunar surface can be distinctly seen with this wonderful instrument, whose powers have hitherto been chiefly confined to nebulae, we may naturally expect some additional and interesting discoveries from this effort. Enough, however, has been seen by astronomers, and even by the

author himself, in a more humble way, and with instruments of far inferior power, to assure him of the general configuration and nature of the lunar surface, as described in the following pages, and illustrated by the accompanying plates; while the perfect knowledge of lunar motions that has been attained, seems admirably adapted to set forth the glory of Him who has ordained them expressly for our benefit. For this end and object, indeed, chiefly the sketch that follows has been designed: the facts have been collected, not only from the best works and the most recent authorities, but from the author's own personal observation of nearly fifteen years, carried on as a delightful and ennobling recreation, rather than a study; but the labour of collecting the facts for the press, and putting them in a popular form, free from technicalities, interrupted continually by more pressing and important avocations, together with the scantiness of opportunity for observation in this variable climate, has not only delayed the publi-

cation beyond the time anticipated, but must plead as an apology for the many imperfections that will doubtless be perceived in it. The design of this work, however, as already stated in reference to its predecessors, is not simply astronomical or scientific. Many such treatises exist far superior for those who like them. It is the religion of astronomy which it is the desire of the writer of these pages to unfold; and it is to be lamented that comparatively few treatises of this nature upon scientific subjects are to be met with.

However needful science may be, there is one thing more "needful;" and adopting the sentiments of the Rev. Leigh Richmond, expressed to his children upon this subject, the writer desires to say—"I will never consent to shut God out of His own universe, or divorce science and religion, which He has joined together to dwell with each other in unity and love." To this treasury of God in the world of nature, then, the author