OUR HOME IN THE STARS

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JOSEPH DREW

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"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS: IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU."

John xiv. 2.

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BY

JOSEPH DREW, LL.D.,

ETC.

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ARGUMENT.

The sublimity of the subject—The magnitude of the stars—The eternity of matter—The eternity of time—The infinity of space—The mission of the stars—The magnitude of the universe—The planetary systems—The Mosaical account of the creation of the sun, moon, and stars—Moses well versed in all Egyptian lore—"The greater light to rule the day, the lesser light to rule the night; He made the stars also"—The stars not made for the illumination of the earth—Heat, light, moisture, and electricity necessary for the sustaining of life—The constituents of the planets—Do the planets contain the necessary conditions for the support of life?—Is life dependent on electricity for its development?—Experiments made on the bodies of criminals—Miniature worlds produced from strange materials—Matter and life inseparable—The oceans and continents in the planet Mercury—The mountains and seas in Venus—The distribution of land and water in Mars—The asteroids fragments of an exploded planet—Jupiter the Goliath of the heavens—Saturn and its moons—Uranus and Neptune—All these planets hold within themselves the conditions necessary for the support of life—Where these conditions exist life must be abundant—The inhabitants of the planets—Telescopic and microscopic worlds—The seven heavens—The seven planets—Abraham entertaining the angels—Are angels a distinctly created race?—Was there not a race previous to Adam,—sinless, therefore deathless?—To what sphere did the angels who visited the patriarch belong?—They were material beings—They must have had a material home—Scriptural evidence in favour of the stars being inhabited—May not our happiness be progressive in other worlds?—"In my Father's house are many mansions"—"One star differeth from another star in glory"—Isaiah, Nehemiah, and St. John support the theory of the habitability of the stars—On what star shall we find our future home?—What new scenes of beauty shall we meet with in those glorious climes?—The strongest argument in favour of a material heaven in our Saviour's own declaration, "Verily I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it with you, in my Father's kingdom."

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"Our Home in the Stars" was the subject of a most eloquent lecture, delivered at the Institution Hall last evening, in connection with the Mutual Improvement Society, by Joseph Drew, Esq., of Weymouth. E. Raymond, Esq., occupied the chair, and the attendance was larger than it usually is at lectures delivered in this town. It is simply impossible, in the limited space at our command, to convey a clear notion of the intellectual treat which Mr. Drew provided for his audience on Thursday evening. The subject chosen was one of the grandest that could engage the human mind—a subject upon which the master spirits of all ages have expended their thoughts. When it is added that many of the leading discoveries of astronomers, from the time of Thales to the present day, were laid before the audience, clothed in the choicest language, some faint idea of the range and beauty of the lecture may be gathered. A vast amount of information was conveyed without the infliction of a long list of technicalities, but whilst those ignorant of astronomy could scarcely fail to follow the learned lecturer with delight, the discourse was one that those more deeply versed in the mysteries of the science might have listened to with very great pleasure. Every sentence was a word-picture; and in many parts the composition would compare most favourably with the brilliant scientific expositions of Sir William Herschel, Dr. Chalmers, or Lord Brougham. The majestic grandeur of the principal heavenly bodies, the matchless beauty of the myriads of stars, the wondrous order of the solar system, and the undefinable majesty of creation generally, were themes which called forth the learning of the lecturer, and the frequent applause of the audience. Many persons will probably dissent from Mr. Drew's hypothesis that our future home will be in the starry world; but all who listened to this brilliant lecture on the subject will admit that he adduces many and weighty reasons in support of his theory, and that his treatment of the subject is most learned, eloquent, and devout.—*Western Gazette.*

"In language of the choicest and most elegant character, yet perfectly devoid of technicalities and uncertain phraseology, Mr. Drew introduced his audience to the mysteries of astronomical science, and showed the perfect harmony existing between reason, revelation, and science. His appeals to Scripture were reverent and most appropriate."—*Central Somerset Gazette.*

"Mr. Drew then entered upon the lecture, and willingly enchained, as with an invisible thread, the attention of the audience. It was a truly eloquent and masterly composition, and was delivered with great clearness and force."—*Weymouth and Portland Guardian.*