THE STARRY HOSTS: A PLEA FOR THE HABITATION OF THE PLANETS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649025961

The Starry Hosts: A Plea for the Habitation of the Planets by Joseph Hamilton

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JOSEPH HAMILTON

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HABITATION OF THE PLANETS.

RT

JOSEPH HAMILTON.

"These, then, though unbeheld in deepest night,
Shine not in vain. Nor think though men were none,
That heaven would want spectators, God want praise."

—Milton.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO.; EDINBURGH: ANDREW ELLIOTT.
BELFAST: W. MULLAN.

1875.

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TO THE

REV. RICHARD SMYTH, D.D., M.P.,

PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY,

MAGRE COLLEGE, LONDONDERRY,

THIS TREATISE

25,

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ESTEEM,

DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.



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PREFACE.

THE subject treated in the following pages is of universal interest; but the difficulty is, to present it so as to be intelligently apprehended by all classes of readers. For the sake of those to whom such a subject is comparatively novel, it is necessary to be somewhat diffuse and exhaustive; while others of advanced thought and information, impatient of platitudes, will reasonably expect some new ideas in keeping with the advanced character of the subject.

I have endeavoured in some degree to meet the necessities of both these classes; and wherein I have failed, I can only ask the ill-informed and well-informed to forbear with me, and with each other. If any of the views I have propounded should appear to some to be too theoretic or visionary, it must be observed that such views are in many cases introduced merely as suppositions, for the sake of illustrations. Besides, I would claim for all such ideas that they be further examined; for many things that at first startle by their novelty, come to appear reasonable upon acquaintance. So far from being startled by anything here advanced, there are some who may consider me even tedious; but these can afford to exercise their patience for the sake of those of slower apprehension. It is