

the ancient Greek philosophers there was a lively dispute as to the real size of the sun. One maintained that it was "precisely as large as it looks to be," a thoroughly Greek way of getting out of a difficulty. All the best thinkers among them, however, clearly saw that it must be a very large body. One of them (Anaxagoras) went the length of saying that it might be as large as all Greece, for which he got laughed at. But he was outbid by Anaximander, who said it was twenty-eight times as large the earth. What would Anaximander or the scoffer of Anaxagoras have said, could he have known what we now know, that, seen from the same distance as the sun, the territory of Greece would have been absolutely invisible; and that even the whole earth, if laid upon it, would not cover more than one thirteen-thousandth part of its apparent surface,—less in proportion, that is to say, than a single letter in the broad expanse of type which meets the reader's eye when a closely-printed volume with a large page and small type lies open before him.*

(6.) My object in this notice is not to put before my audience, except in one single instance, any connected chain of reasoning and deduction; or to show how, from the principles of abstract science combined with observation, the results I have to state have been obtained. This would lead me a great deal too far, and would require not one but a whole series of such lectures. What I

* The original type and page of "Good Words" were here referred to, in which this lecture first appeared in print: each page of which contains about 6000 letters. The pages which now lie open before the eye of the reader contain, together, only about 2600.