


LECTURE V.

CELESTIAL MEASURINGS AND WEIGHINGS.

“Omnia in numero, pondere, et mensurâ.”

 HERE are epochs in the history of every great operation, and in the course of every undertaking, to which the co-operations of successive generations of men have contributed (especially such as have received their increments at various and remote periods of history) ; when it becomes desirable to pause for a while, and, as it were, to take stock ; to review the progress made and estimate the amount of work done : not so much for complacency, as for the purpose of forming a judgment of the efficiency of the methods resorted to, to do it ; and to lead us to inquire how they may yet be improved, if such improvement be possible ; to accelerate the furtherance of the object ; or to ensure the ultimate perfection of its attainment. In scientific, no less than in material or social undertakings, such pauses and *resumés* are eminently useful ; and are sometimes forced on our consideration