tific man, it will be found that in the course of discovery the argument has rather strengthened than weakened. Let us take, for instance, the portion of it founded on the existence and distribution of moons. It was known when Fontenelle wrote his "Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds," that the earth had one moon, Jupiter four moons, and Saturn five. It is now further known that Saturn has eight moons, and Uranus also eight; and if only one has yet been detected revolving round Neptune, it must be taken into account that the latter planet is twice farther distant from our earth than Saturn, and so dimly discernible, that it is still a question whether it possesses a ring or no,—that our earliest acquaintance with it is not yet more than eight years old,—that even Saturn's eighth moon was discovered only six years ago,—and that not only not a few of the moons of Neptune, but even some of the moons of Uranus, may be still to find. The general fact still holds good, that in proportion as the larger planets most distant from the sun require, in consequence, moons to light them, the necessary moons they have got; just as on our own earth the animals who live most distant from the sun, and require, in consequence, thicker protective coverings to keep them warm, have got these necessary protective coverings, whether of fatty matter or of fur. But the argument derivable from the light and heat of the sun himself seems scarce less strong. Let us avail ourselves of it, as condensed by Sir David Brewster, from Sir Isaac Newton's first letter to Dr Bentley. "He [Sir Isaac] thought it inexplicable by natural causes, and to be ascribed to the counsel and contrivance of a voluntary agent, that the matter [of which the solar system is formed] should divide itself into two sorts, part of it composing a shining body like the sun, and part an opaque body like the planets. Had a natural and blind cause, without contrivance and design, placed the earth in the centre of the moon's orbit, and Jupiter in the centre