

too. Poor Goldsmith, when sitting a homeless vagabond on the slopes of the Alps, could exclaim, in a greatly truer tone than that of his polished predecessor,—

“ Creation’s heir, the world, the world is mine !”

And in Cowper himself we find all Goldsmith’s intense feeling of appropriation, that “ calls the delightful scenery all its own,” associated

“ With worthy thoughts of that unvaried love  
That planned, and built, and still upholds, a world  
So clothed with beauty, for rebellious man.”

Strange to say, however, it is to the higher exponents of natural science, and in especial to the geologists, that it has been left to deal most directly with the sophistries of Bolingbroke and Pope.

Oken, a man quite as far wrong in some points as either the poet or his master, was the first to remark, and this in the oracular, enigmatical style peculiar to the German, that “ man is the sum total of all the animals.” Gifted, as all allow, with a peculiarly nice eye for detecting those analogies which unite the animal world into a harmonious whole, he remarked, that in one existence or being all these analogies converge. Even the humbler students of the heavens have learned to find for themselves the star of the pole, by following the direction indicated by what are termed the two pointer stars in the Great Bear. And to the eye of Oken all the groupes of the animal kingdom formed a sphere of constellations, each of which has its pointer stars, if I may so speak, turned towards man. Man occupies, as it were, the central point in the great circle of being ; so that those lines which pass singly through each of the inferior animals stationed at its circumference, meet in him ; and thus, as the focus in which the scattered rays unite, he imparts by his presence a unity and completeness to creation which it would not possess were he away. You will be startled, however,