But the Being capable of regulating the movements of ſo vaſt a machine, may well be ſuppoſed to posseſs infinite power, and to be capable of ſuperintending the motions of the univerſe. That the widely extended ſyſtem of nature is but one ſyſtem, of which the ſeveral parts are united by many bonds of mutual connection, has been shown elſewhere (ſee Physics), and appears daily more and more evi­dent from our progreſs in phyſical diſcoveries ; and therefore it is in the higheſt degree unreaſonable to ſuppoſe that it has more than one author, or one ſupreme governor.

As the unity of deſign apparent in the works of creation plainly prove the unity of their Author, ſo do the immenſity of the whole, and the admirable adjuſtment of the ſeveral parts to one another, demonſtrate His power and His wiſdom. On this ſubject the following beautiful reflections by Mr Wollaſton are deſerving of the moſt ſerious atten­tion.

“ In order (ſays that able writer @@\* ) to prove to any one the grandneſs of this fabric of the world, one needs only to bid him conſider the *ſun,* with that inſupportable glory and luſtre that ſurrounds it ; to demonſtrate its vaſt diſtance, magnitude, and heat ; to repreſent to him the chorus of pla­nets moving periodically, by uniform laws, in their ſeveral orbits about it ; guarded ſome of them by ſecondary planets, and as it were emulating the ſtate of the ſun, and probably all poſſeſſed by proper inhabitants ; to remind him of thoſe ſurpriſing viſits which the *comets* make to us, and the large trains or uncommon ſplendor which attends them, the far country from which they come, and the curioſity and horror which they excite not only among us, but in the inhabitants of other planets, who may alſo be up to ſee the entry and progreſs of theſe miniſters of fate : to direct his eye and contemplation through thoſe azure fields and vaſt regions above him up to the *fixed stars,* that radiant numberleſs hoſt of heaven ; and to make him underſtand how unlikely a thing it is that they ſhould be placed there only to adorn and beſpangle a canopy over our heads ; to convince him that they are rather ſo many *other ſuns,* with their ſeveral ſystems of planets about them ; to ſhow him by the help of glaſſes ſtill more and more of theſe fixed lights, and to be­get in him an apprehenſion of their inconceivable numbers, and thoſe immenſe ſpaces that lie beyond our reach and even our imagination : One needs but to do this (continues our author), and explain to him ſuch things as are now known almoſt to every body; and by it to ſhow, that if the world be not infinite, it is *infinito similis*, and undoubtedly the work of an Infinite Architect.

“ But if we would take a view of all the *particulars* con­tained within that aſtoniſhing compaſs which we have thus haſtily run over, how would wonders multiply upon us ? Every corner, every part of the world, is as it were made up of *other* worlds. If we look upon this our earth, what ſcope does it furniſh for admiration ? The great variety of moun­tains, hills, valleys, plains, rivers, ſeas, trees, and plants ! The many tribes of different animals with which it is stock­ed ; the multifarious inventions and works of one of theſe, i. *e.* of us men ; with the wonderful inſtincts of others, guid­ing them uniformly to what is beſt for themſelves, in situations where neither ſenſe nor reaſon could direct them. And yet when all theſe (heaven and earth) are ſurveyed as nicely as they can be by the help of our unaſſiſted ſenses and of teleſcopes, we may diſcover by the aſſiſtance of good microſcopes, in very ſmall parts of matter, as many *new* wonders as thoſe already diſcovered, new kingdoms of animals, with new and curious architecture. So that as our ſenſes and even conception fainted before in the vaſt journeys we took in conſidering the expanſe of the univerſe, they here again fail us in our reſearches into the principles and minute parts of which it is compoſed. Both the *beginnings* and the *ends* of things, the least and the *greatest,* all conspire to baffle us ; and which way ſoever we proſecute our inquiries, we ſtill meet with freſh ſubjects of amazement, and freſh reaſons to believe that there are indefinitely more and more behind, that will forever eſcape our eagereſt purſuits and deepeſt pe­netration.

“ In this vaſt aſſemblage, and amidſt all the multifarious motions by which the ſeveral processes of generation and corruption, and the other phenomena of nature, are carried on, we cannot but obſerve that there are listed methods, as ſo many forms of proceeding, to which things punctually and religiouſly adhere. The ſame *cauſes* circumſtanced in the same manner produce always the ſame *effects ;* all the *ſpecies* of ani­mals among us are made according to one general *idea ;* and ſo are thoſe of *plants* alſo, and even of *minerals.* No new ſpe­cies are brought forth or have ariſen anywhere ; and the old are preſerved and continued by the *old ways.*

“ It appears, laſtly, beyond diſpute, that in the parts and model of the world there is a contrivance for accompliſhing certain ends. The ſun is placed near the centre of our ſyſtem, for the more convenient diſpenſing of his benign in­fluences to the planets moving about him ; the place of the earth’s *equator* interſects that of her *orbit,* and makes a pro­per angle with it, in order to diverſify the *year,* and create an uſeful variety of s*easοns ;* and many other things of this kind will be always obſerved, and though a thouſand times repeated, be meditated upon with pleaſure by good men and true philoſophers. Who can obſerve the vapours to aſcend, eſpecially from the ſea, meet above in clouds, and fall again after condenſation, without being convinced that this is a kind of *distllation,* in order to clear the water of its groffer ſalts, and then by rains and dews to ſupply the fountains and rivers with freſh and wholeſome liquor ; to nouriſh the vegetables below by showers, which deſcend in drops as from a *watering-pot* upon a garden ? Who can view the st*ructure* of a plant or animal, the indefinite number of its fibres and fine veſſels, the formation of larger veſſels, and the ſeve­ral members out of them, with the apt diſpoſition of all theſe ; the means contrived for the reception and diſtribution of *nutriment ;* the *effect* this nutriment has in extending the veſſels, bringing the vegetable or animal to its full growth and expanſion, continuing the *motion* of the ſeveral fluids, repairing the decays of the body, and preſerving *life?* Who can take notice of the ſeveral *faculties* of animals, their arts of ſaving and providing for themſelves, or the ways in which they are provided for ; the uſes of plants to animals, and of ſome animals to others, particularly to mankind ; the care taken that the ſeveral ſpecies ſhould be propagated, without confuſion, from their proper ſeeds ; the ſtrong in­clination planted in animals for that purpoſe, their love of their young and the like.—Who (ſays our author) can ob­ſerve all this, and not ſee a *design* in ſuch *regular* pieces, ſo nicely wrought and ſo admirably preſerved ? If there were but one animal in exiſtence, and it could not be doubted but that his eyes were formed that he might ſee with them, his ears that he might hear with them, and his feet to be instruments by which he might remove himſelf from place to place ; if *design* and *contrivance* can be much leſs doubted, when the ſame things are repeated in the individuals of all the tribes of animals ; if the like obſervations may be made with reſpect to vegetables and other things ; and if all theſe *classes* of things, and much more the *individuals* comprehend­ed under them, be inconceivably numerous, as moſt unquestionably they are—one cannot but be convinced, from what ſo plainly runs through the nobler parts of the viſible world, that not only *they,* but other things, even thoſe that ſeem to be *leſs noble,* have their ends likewiſe, though not always

@@@[m]\* Religion of Nature, sect. v. Prop. 14.