

# MORE WORLDS THAN ONE

THE CREED OF THE PHILOSOPHER

AND THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN.

BY

SIR DAVID BREWSTER, K.H., M.A., D.C.L.,

F.R.S., V.P.R.S. EDIN., M.R.I.A., F.R.S.A., F.G.S., ASSOCIATE OF THE IMPERIAL  
INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, HONORARY OR CORRESPONDING MEMBER  
OF THE ACADEMIES OF PETERSBURG, VIENNA, BERLIN,  
COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, BRUSSELS, GÖTTINGEN,  
MODENA, AND OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF WASHINGTON, &c.

"Bright star of eve, that send'st thy softening ray  
Through the dim twilight of this nether sky,  
I hail thy beam like rising of the day,  
Hast thou a home for me when I shall die ?

"Is there a spot within thy radiant sphere,  
Where love, and faith, and truth, again may dwell;  
Where I may seek the rest I find not here,  
And clasp the cherished forms I loved so well?"

NINTH THOUSAND.

CORRECTED AND GREATLY ENLARGED.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1862.

[The Right of Translation is reserved.]

INCERTA CERTIS PROBANTUR.

QUINT.

To Beings of limited capacities, Probability is the very guide of Life.

BUTLER'S *Analogy*, &c., *Introduction*.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE, . . . . .	v
INTRODUCTION, . . . . .	1
CHAP. I. Religious Aspect of the Question, . . . . .	7
II. Description of the Solar System, . . . . .	17
III. The Geological Condition of the Earth, . . . . .	38
IV. Analogy between the Earth and the other Planets, . . . . .	64
V. The Sun, Moon, and Satellites, . . . . .	92
VI. The System of Comets, . . . . .	115
VII. On the Nebular Hypothesis, . . . . .	120
VIII. The Motion of the Solar System round a distant Centre, . . . . .	125
IX. Religious Difficulties, . . . . .	138
X. Single Stars and Binary Systems, . . . . .	163
XI. Clusters of Stars and Nebulæ, . . . . .	172
XII. General Summary, . . . . .	182
XIII. Reply to Objections drawn from Geology, . . . . .	198
XIV. Objections from the Nature of Nebulæ, . . . . .	210
XV. Objections from the Nature of the Fixed Stars and Binary Systems, . . . . .	218
XVI. Objections from the Nature of the Planets, . . . . .	230
XVII. The Future of the Universe, . . . . .	256



## P R E F A C E.

HAVING been requested by the Editor of the *North British Review* to give an account of a work entitled *Of a Plurality of Worlds, an Essay*, I undertook the task, in the belief that it contained sentiments similar to my own, and that I should have the gratification of illustrating and recommending a doctrine which had long been the Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian. I was surprised, however, to find that, under a title tending to mislead the public, the author had made an elaborate attack upon opinions consecrated, as I had thought, by Reason and Revelation ; and had, in conducting his argument, not only adopted the *Nebular Hypothesis*, so universally condemned as a