

each other as gentlemen—as peers, at least—equally anxious to know the truth upon all things, and to rid ourselves of error and all its mischievous consequences.

Mr. Proctor has stated many things respecting the astronomical philosophy which I have introduced which are simply not true; others are only partial descriptions, and some are correctly given. As he has evidently a deep interest in the matter, allow me to give him specially a formal challenge to a fair and public discussion of the subject in all its bearings, either in a public assembly or in your pages, or in both.

PARALLAX.

1, Hawley Villas, Chalk Farm-road, Nov. 13.

LAST WORDS ON THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH CONTROVERSY.

[2987.]—THE readers of a practical journal like the ENGLISH MECHANIC must be of a thinking and inquiring turn of mind, and cannot fail to see that unless the foundation of any philosophy is fully examined and proved to be sound, all discussion of details is waste of time and energy. On this ground will you allow me to say that, although I am very willing to answer and explain all the difficulties which have been named by your numerous correspondents, it is really imperative that the question as to the true form of the surface of standing water should be first decided. As Mr. Wallace declines to try the simple experiment suggested in my last letter, and wishes to substitute a complicated arrangement which would be more like a piece of conjuring than practical investigation, I beg to ask your correspondent Mr. Proctor whether he is ready to accept my challenge? Nay, I may as well ask whether any of the Newtonian advocates will take up the gauntlet? If not, will they sufficiently humble themselves as to stand aside for a time, while I teach them the true causes of those phenomena which they have failed to understand, except by assuming the rotundity of the earth—the causes of day and night, winter and summer, the six months alternations of light and darkness at the northern centre, the true distance of the sun, the cause of sunrise and sunset, the tides, eclipses, &c., &c.? If, Mr. Editor, you are willing that I should make the attempt to enlighten your readers on these and other kindred matters, I am ready to do so; but I should like that all those who put questions and raise objections should do so respectfully, and with a becoming spirit. Let us treat