

FRESNEL AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

H $\frac{417}{460}$ A REPLY TO THE CALUMNIES OF THE
'ATHENÆUM.'

BY

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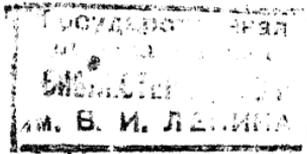
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A REPLY,

§c.

IN a late number of the *Athenæum* (July 14, 1849,)* is contained a Review of a work of mine, entitled "Fresnel and his Followers," with regard to which it is requisite that I should endeavour to set myself right with the public. When an author finds himself attacked in a literary periodical, it is usual for him to stand passive under the infliction, however unjust, however malevolent may be the criticism to which he may have been subjected. And for this there is in general, no doubt, good ground; for however evilly-disposed may be the mind of the critic, however much inclined he may be, under the pretence of impartial criticism, to gratify personal ill-will, there is generally this check upon the development of his intentions, that misrepresentation, if sufficiently conspicuous to be material, is sure to be found out, and the shame and ignominy which always attend the exposure of unsuccessful malice, must in the end settle down upon the head of the offender. But though this is the general rule, like other general rules it has occasionally its exceptions; and the case I have now to bring before the public is precisely of that anomalous character.

* See Appendix.