

Small as is our whole system compared with the infinitude of
creation,
Brief as is our life compared with the cycles of time,
We are so tethered to all by the beautiful dependencies of law,
That not only the sparrow's fall is felt to the uttermost bound,
But the vibrations set in motion by the words that we utter
Reach through all space,
And the tremor is felt through all time.

—Maria Mitchell, astronomer from Nantucket