

conformity in the density of the planets and that of the sun is such, that of 650 parts which compose the whole of the matter of the planets, there are more than 640 of the same density as the matter of the sun, and only ten parts out of these 650 which are of a greater density ; for Saturn and Jupiter are nearly of the same density as the sun, and the quantity of matter which these planets contain, is at least 64 times greater than that of the four inferior planets, Mars, the Earth, Venus, and Mercury. We must, therefore, admit, that the matter, of which the planets are generally composed, is nearly the same as that of the sun, and that consequently the one may have been separated from the other.

But it may be said, if the comet, by falling obliquely on the sun, drove off the matter which composes the planets, they, instead of describing circles of which the sun is the centre, would, on the contrary, at each revolution have returned to the same point from whence they departed ; as every projectile would, which might be thrown off with sufficient force from the surface of the earth, to oblige it to turn perpetually : for it is easy to demonstrate that such, in that instance, would be the case, and therefore