

therefore that the projection of the planets from the sun cannot be attributed to the impulsion of a comet.

To this I reply, that the matter which composes the planets did not come from the sun in ready formed globes, to which the comet could have communicated its motion of impulsion, but in the form of torrents, the motion of the anterior parts of which were accelerated by that of the posterior ; and that the attraction of the anterior parts also accelerated the motion of the posterior ; and that this acceleration, produced by one or other of these causes, or perhaps by both, might be so great as to change the original direction of the motion occasioned by the impulse of the comet ; from which cause a motion has resulted, such as we at present observe in the planets : especially when it is considered that the sun is displaced from its station by the shock of the comet. An example will render this more intelligible ; let us suppose, that from the top of a mountain a musket ball is discharged, and that the strength of the powder was sufficient to send it beyond the semi-diameter of the earth ; it is certain, that this ball would pass round the earth, and at each revolution return  
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