the extent of the universe appears to be without bounds and the solar system forms only a province of the universal empire of the Creator; an infinite empire like himself.

Sirius, the most brilliant fixed star, and which for that reason may be regarded as the nearest sun to our's, affords to our sight only a second of annual parrallax on the whole diameter of the earth's orbit, and is therefore at the distance of 6, 771, 770, millions of leagues distant from us, that is, 6, 767, 216 millions of leagues from the limits of the solar system, such as we have assigned it after the depth to which the comets immerse. Supposing then, there is an equal space from Sirius to that which belongs to our sun, we shall perceive that we must extend the limits of our solar system 742 times more than it is at present, as far as the aphelion of the comet, whose enormous distance from the sun is nevertheless only a unit on 742 of the total diameter of the solar system.

LEACUES. Distance from the earth to the Sun - 33,000,000 Distance from Saturn to the Sun - 313,000,000 Distance from the aphelion of the Comet to the Sun - 4,554,000,000 Distance from Sirius to the Sun - 6,771,770,000,000 Distance of Sirius to the point of the aphelion of the Comet, supposing that in ascending from the sun the comet pointed directly towards Sirius (a supposition

282

which