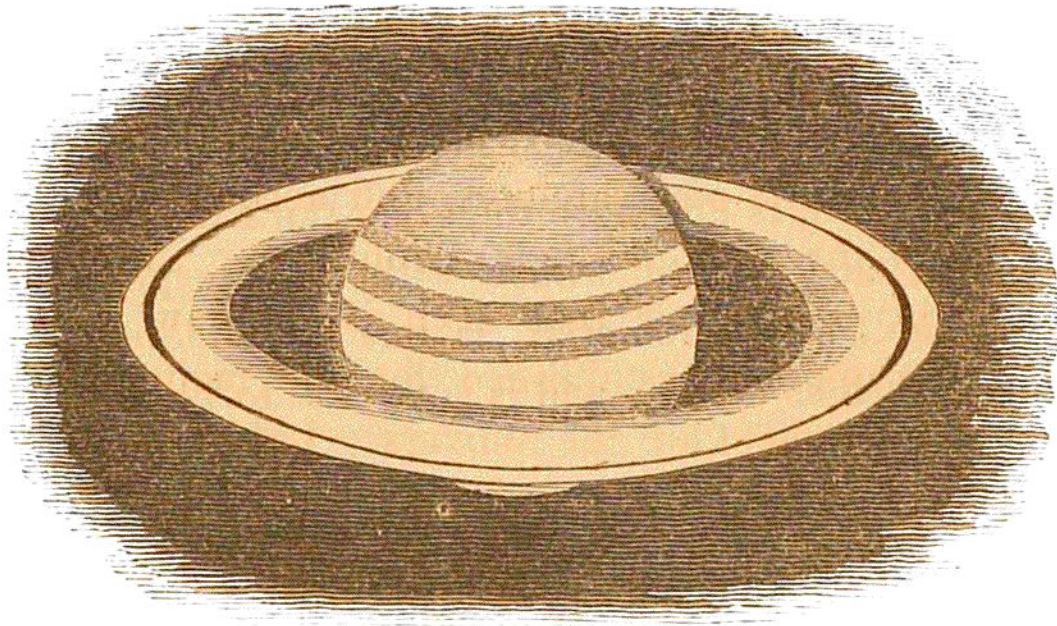


could not take place unless the annular band were of uniform composition, which would rarely be the



Tab. 6.—TELESCOPIC VIEW OF SATURN.

case ; hence the ring would most generally divide into several portions, which might sometimes be of nearly equal bulk, as in the *asteroids* ; while in others they might coalesce into one mass. The solar nebulae, thus separated at various periods, and constituting planets in a gaseous state, would necessarily have a rotatory motion, and revolve in varying orbits around the central nucleus ; and as refrigeration and consolidation proceeded, each might project entire annuli or rings, and satellites, in like manner as the sun had thrown off the planets themselves.

In addition to the appearances presented by the nebulae of various states of attenuation and of