the uninhabited parts of the land, unseen by man. They are sometimes of great magnitude: the volume of several has exceeded that of the planet Ceres, which is about seventy miles in diameter. One which passed within twenty-five miles of us was estimated to weigh about *six hundred thousand* tons, and to move with a velocity of about twenty miles in a second—a fragment of it alone reached the earth. The obliquity of the descent of meteorites, the peculiar substances of which they are composed, and the explosion attending their fall, show that they are foreign to our planet. Luminous spots, altogether independent of the phases, have been seen on the dark parts of the moon; these appear to be the light arising from the eruption of volcanoes; whence it has been supposed that meteorites have been projected from the moon by the impetus of volcanic eruption. If a stone were projected from the moon in a vertical line with an initial velocity of 10,992 feet in a second—a velocity but four times that of a ball when first discharged from a cannon—instead of falling back to the moon by the attraction of gravity, it would come within the sphere of the earth's attraction, and revolve around it like a satellite. These bodies, impelled either by the direction of the primitive impulse, or by the disturbing action of the sun, might ultimately penetrate the earth's atmosphere and arrive at its surface. But from whatever source meteoric stones may come, it is highly probable that they have a common