

vail in all worlds. But how difficult to conceive of revolving planets in a system that has two suns, one of which revolves around the other! Infinite wisdom may have plans and objects in the collocation, movements, and physical condition of worlds totally inconceivable by human powers.

Even as long ago as the time of Halley, that astronomer suggested that probably the solar system had a motion in an orbit around some remote centre; and the idea has been frequently revived in more recent times, and subjected to the test of observation. And though some still profess to be sceptical on the subject, it seems difficult to resist the conviction that it is true. For the stars in one part of the heaven gradually approximate towards one another, while in the opposite part they recede. In what other way can we explain such a fact, but by supposing that we are approaching the stars in one direction, and receding from them in the other? The point towards which we seem to be tending is in right ascension about  $260^{\circ}$ , in declination  $34^{\circ}$  north, corresponding to the constellation Hercules. Astronomers even profess to have determined the velocity approximately with which we are moving — which is 154,185,000 miles in a year, 422,000 in an hour, and 57 each second. Whether the remote centre that regulates this movement may be occupied by a vast sun, or the attraction may be but the aggregate of the influence of a vast number of smaller bodies embraced in the same system, it may never be possible to know; yet possibly the discovery may one day be made.

The rapidity with which the new planets, denominated asteroids, have been discovered of late, is one of the most remarkable features of modern astronomy. These all move between Mars and Jupiter; and though forty are now known, their united mass is less than a quarter part of the weight