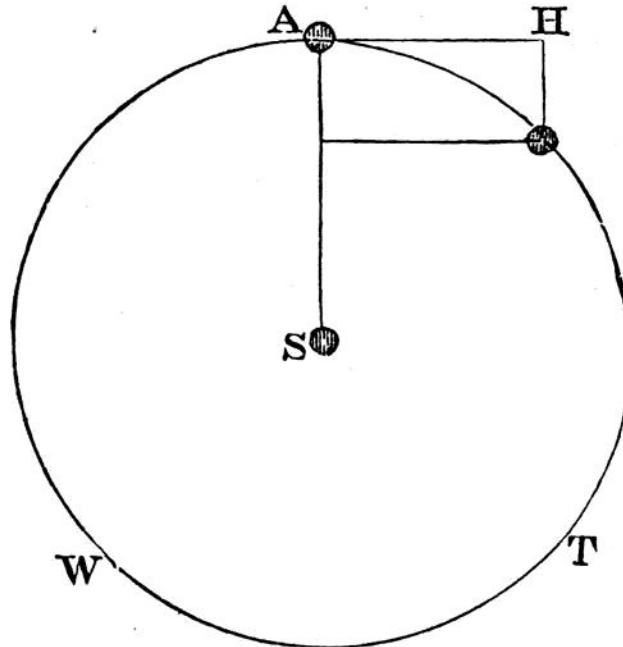


shorter times, according to their distances. The following table will show the times in which the planets would fall to



the sun, provided that the centrifugal force generated by their revolution were destroyed.

| | Days. | Hours. |
|---|-------|--------|
| Mercury would fall to the Sun in | 15 | 13 |
| Venus | 39 | 17 |
| The Earth | 64 | 10 |
| Mars | 121 | 0 |
| Jupiter | 290 | 0 |
| Saturn | 798 | 0 |
| Georgium Sidus | 5406 | 0 |
| The Moon would fall to the Earth in | 4 | 21 |

THE RELATIVE MAGNITUDES AND DISTANCES OF THE PLANETS.

We have now ascertained that the earth is an oblate spheroid, having one revolution on its axis, and another round the sun as the centre of the system to which it belongs; and we have traced the origin of that wonderful combination of worlds, and have explained the action of the forces by which their motions are produced and their stability ensured. To give an idea of the relative magnitudes and distances of the planets, we cannot do better than quote a passage from Sir John Herschel's very elegant and masterly Treatise on Astronomy. "Choose any well-levelled field or bowling-green,