

tomed to assert that the immensely rapid motion of the sphere of the Fixed Stars graduates by a slower and slower motion of Planets, Comets, Air, and Ocean, into the immobility of the Earth. So that the conditions are not satisfied on which he hypothetically says, "tun abnegandus est motus terræ."

With regard to the proper motions of the planets, this passage seems to me to confirm what I have already said of him; that he does not appear to have seen the full value and meaning of what had been done, up to his time, in Formal Astronomy.

We may however fully agree with Mr. De Morgau; that the whole of what he has said on this subject, when put together, does not justify Hume's assertion that he rejected the Copernican system "with the most positive disdain."

Mr. De Morgau, in order to balance the Copernican argument derived from the immense velocity of the stars in their diurnal velocity on the other supposition, has reminded us that those who reject this great velocity as improbable, accept without scruple the greater velocity of light. It is curious that Bacon also has made this comparison, though using it for a different purpose; namely, to show that the transmission of the visual impression may be instantaneous. In Aphorism xlvi. of Book ii. of the *Novum Organon* he is speaking of what he calls *Instantiæ curriculi*, or *Instantiæ ad aquam*, which we may call *Instances by the clock*: and he says that the great velocity of the diurnal sphere makes the marvellous velocity of the rays of light more credible.

"Immensa illa velocitas in ipso corpore, quæ cernitur in motu diurno (quæ etiam viros graves ita obstupescit ut *mallent credere motum terræ*), facit motum illum ejaculationis ab ipsis [stellis] (licet celeritate ut diximus admirabilem) magis credibilem." This passage shows an inclination towards the opinion of the earth's being at rest, but not a very strong conviction.

Kepler persecuted.

WE have seen (p. 280) that Kepler writes to Galileo in 1597—"Be trustful and go forwards. If Italy is not a convenient place for the publication of your views, and if you are likely to meet with any obstacles, perhaps Germany will grant us the necessary liberty." Kepler however had soon afterwards occasion to learn that in Germany also, the cultivators of science were exposed to persecution. It is true that