

A little difficulty was at first experienced in applying the law to the group of asteroids; but this difficulty no longer exists, and we now know this wonderful law to be so exact and uniform in its application that, before the discovery of the planet Neptune, the botanist in his garden could have predicted its existence and its place in the heavens with greater precision than the French astronomer in his observatory. Moreover, an examination of this series of fractions renders it impossible that any planet should exist exterior to Neptune, as his periodic revolution corresponds to the beginning of the series; though an indefinite number of planets may exist within the orbit of Mercury, inasmuch as the planets lying in that direction correspond to the indefinite continuation of the series. This correspondence also harmonizes beautifully with the cosmical theory of La Place and Sir William Herschel, which has been explained in the fourth chapter of this work. Astronomers will therefore take notice, and not be found planet-hunting in the deserts of space beyond the orbit of Neptune. In the other direction, the future discovery of an intra-mercurial planet is both possible and probable. Certain it is that presumption sides with Lescarbault in his claim to such a discovery.

Who shall explain what mysterious virtue belongs to the succession of values furnished by the leaf-arrangements of the plant, that exactly the same succession of values should be inscribed upon its humble stem and entered among the ordinations of planetary systems? How many millions of chances against the supposition of a blind coincidence through a series of terms so extended! Premeditated atheism alone could fail to read the sentiment so written at once in the soft bloom of the rose and the supernal light of the stars—"These are the works of one Omnipresent Intelligence."