

posed of minute liquid particles floating in a gaseous medium—like the cloud of steam condensed in the air after escaping from the boiler. There may be mineral vapors as well as igneous vapors. Most mineral vapors must be intensely heated. We may call such a vapor “fire-mist.” If the earth were vaporized by heat, to what limits in space would the vapor extend? We must think of that. If the earth was ever a fire-mist globe its dimensions were vastly greater than at present.

There is another thought to be mentioned here. The earth is only one of a system of worlds, and there is good reason for believing that any remote origin which we can establish for the earth must represent the remote origin of the other planets. In saying they are one system, I refer to their common motions about one sun; to the common elliptic form of their orbits; to the fact that all move from west to east; that all revolve nearly in one plane; that, so far as ascertained, they all rotate on their axes; and all rotate from west to east; that the forms and movements of all, and of all the satellites, are conformed to one set of laws, and that all we know of other planets, points to a fundamental correspondence and identity between them.

This conclusion vastly enlarges our field. We must think of each of the planets heated up to a fire-mist condition. It is easier to think the sun also heated to such condition, since he is at present not so far removed from it as the planets. Now, when all these bodies were in that heated condition which maintained them in a fire-mist state, the whole space of the solar system must have been filled with fire-mist. Notice, that I do not say it was fire-mist of any specified density. The density of vapor depends on the proximity of the liquid floating particles, to each other. There may have been a diffused very thin gas also, in which the liquid particles floated. Still, I do not conceive such gas necessary. These particles—some of which may even have been solid—would have weight smaller than imagination can conceive. They were not particles like those of our clouds, influenced by the