to, which obtains between one set of these elements and another. We shall illustrate this by a material, ere we apply it to a mental workmanship.

9. There is, then, a difference of great argumentative importance in this whole question, between the Laws of Matter and the Dispositions of Matter. In astronomy, for example, when attending to the mechanism of the planetary system, we should instance at most but two laws—the law of gravitation; and perhaps the law of perseverance, on the part of all bodies, whether in a state of rest or of motion, till interrupted by some external cause. But had we to state the dispositions of matter in the planetary system, we should instance a greater number of particulars. We should describe the arrangement of its various parts, whether in respect to situation, or magnitude, or figure—as the position of a large and luminous mass in the centre, and of the vastly smaller but opake masses which circulated around it, but at such distances as not to interfere with each other, and of the still smaller secondary bodies which revolved about the planets. And we should include in this description the impulses in one direction, and nearly in one plane, given to the different moving bodies; and so regulated, as to secure the movement of each, in an orbit of small eccentricity. The dispositions of matter in the planetary system were fixed at the original setting up of the machine.