

and that it will also have separated small particles, to which it will have communicated a motion of impulsion in the same manner and by the same shock ; so that the planets formerly belonged to the body of the sun, and were detached from thence by an impulsive force common to all, and which they have preserved to the present moment ?

This supposition appears to be at least as well founded as the opinion of Leibnitz, who supposes that the planets of the earth were formerly suns ; and his system, of which an account will be given in the fifth article, would have been more comprehensive and more agreeable to probability, if he had raised himself to this idea. We agree with him in thinking that this effect was produced at the time when Moses said that God divided light from darkness ; for, according to Leibnitz, light was divided from darkness when the planets were extinguished ; but in our supposition there was a real physical separation, since the opaque bodies of the planets were divided from the luminous matter which composes the sun.

This idea of the cause of the impulsive force of the planets will be found much less objectionable, when an estimation is made of the

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