

particles of which succeed each other, there has been no change of direction? It is, on the contrary, very probable that a considerable change did take place, sufficient to cause the planets to move in the course they at present occupy.

It may be further urged, that if the sun had been displaced by the shock of a comet, it would move uniformly, and that hence this motion being common to the whole system, no alteration was necessary; but might not the sun, before the shock, have had a motion round the centre of the cometary system, to which primitive motion, the stroke of the comet may have added or diminished; and would not that fully account for the actual motion of the planets?

If these suppositions be not admitted, may it not be presumed, without any offence to probability, that in the stroke of the comet against the sun, there was an elastic force which raised the torrent above the surface of the sun, instead of directly impelling it? which alone would be sufficient to remove the perihelion, and give the planets the motion they have retained. This supposition is not unlikely, for the matter of the sun may possibly
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