

met. This heat may possibly endure six thousand years, since the comet of 1680 required fifty thousand years to cool. Around this solid and burning matter, which occupies the centre of the earth, is found the dense and heavy fluid, which descended the first, and this is the fluid which forms the great abyss on which the earth is borne, like cork on quicksilver; but as the terrestrial parts were originally mixed with a large quantity of water, in descending they have dragged with them a part of this water, which, not being able to re-ascend after the earth was consolidated, formed a concentrical bed with the heavy fluid which surrounds this hot substance, inso-much that the great abyss is composed of two concentrical orbs, the most internal of which is a heavy fluid, and the other, water; and this last serves for a foundation to the earth. It is from this admirable arrangement, produced by the atmosphere of a comet that the Theory of the Earth, and the explantion of all its phenomena are to depend.

When the atmosphere of the comet was once disembarassed from all the solid and terrestrial matters, there remained only the lighter air, through which the rays of the