

greater than that of the earth to the sun without quitting the limits of the solar universe, and without being subjected to other laws than that of our sun, and hence it may be concluded that the solar system for its diameter has an extent, which, although prodigious, nevertheless, forms only a very small portion of the heavens ; and we must infer a truth therefrom but little known, namely, that from the sun, the earth and all the other planets, the sky must appear the same.

When in a serene and clear night we contemplate all those stars with which the celestial vault is illuminated, it might be imagined that by being conveyed into another planet more remote from the sun, we should see these glittering stars larger, and emitting a brighter light, since we should be so much nearer to them. Nevertheless, the calculation we have just made demonstrates that if we were placed in Saturn, which is 300 millions of leagues nearer Sirius, it would appear only an 194,021st part bigger, an augmentation absolutely insensible ; from which it must be concluded, that the heaven, with respect to all the planets, has the same aspect as it has to the earth. Therefore if even there should exist comets whose periods of revolution might be double, or treble