

treble the period of 575 years, the longest known to us; if even the comets in consequence thereof, immerse at a depth ten times greater, there would still be a space 74 or 75 times deeper, to reach the last confines, as well of the solar system, as of the sirian; so that by allowing Sirius as much magnitude as our sun has, and supposing in his system as many or more cometary bodies than there are comets existing in the solar, Sirius will govern them as the sun governs his, and there will remain an immense interval between the confines of the two empires; an interval which appears to be no more than a desert in the vast space, and which must give a suspicion that cometary bodies do exist, whose periods are longer, and which are to a much greater distance than we can determine by our actual knowledge. Sirius may also be a sun much larger and more powerful than ours; and if that is the case, it must throw the borders of his domain so much the further back by approaching them to us, and at the same time retrench the circumference of the sun.

I cannot avoid presuming, that in this great number of fixed stars, which are all so many suns, there are some greater and others smaller than ours; others more or less luminous, some

nearer,