

slightest heat, relative to living nature. And with respect to Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and all their satellites, the quantity of heat which the sun sends to them, in comparison with that which is necessary for the support of nature, which may be looked upon as of little effect, especially in the two larger planets, which, nevertheless, appear to be the essential objects of the solar system.

All the planets, therefore, have always been volumes (as large as useless) of matter more than dead, profoundly frozen, and consequently places uninhabited and uninhabitable for ever, if they do not include within themselves treasures of heat much superior to what they receive from the sun. The heat which our globe possesses of itself, and which is 50 times greater than that which comes to it from the sun, is, in fact, the treasure of nature, the true fund which animates us as well as every being: it is this internal heat of the earth which causes all things to germinate and to develop; it is that which constitutes the element of fire, properly called an element, which alone gives motion to other elements, and which if it was reduced to $\frac{1}{20}$ could not conquer their resistance, but would itself fall into an inertia. Now this element, this sole active power, which
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