

extinguished. Leibnitz has not hesitated to pronounce that the terrestrial globe owes its source, and the consistence of its matters, to the element of fire: yet these two great philosophers had not the assistance of these numerous circumstances and observations which have been acquired and collected in our days, and which are so well established that it appears more than probable that the earth, as well as the planets, were projected out of the sun, and being consequently of a like matter, which was at first in a state of liquefaction they obeyed the centrifugal power, at the same time that it collected itself together by that of attraction, which has given a round form to all the planets under the equator, and flattened under the poles, on account of the variety of their rotation; that afterwards this fire being gradually dissipated, the benign temperature, suitable to organized nature, succeeded in different planets according to the difference of their thickness or density. If there should be other particular causes of heat assigned for the earth and planets, which might combine with those whose effects we have calculated, our results are not less curious, nor less useful to the advancement of science; and we shall here only observe, that those particular causes may prolong the time of the refrigeration of the globe, and the duration