

that the time of prolongation would be five times longer, that is 3850 years; so that the more we endeavour to increase the heat which comes to us from the sun relative to that which emanates from the earth, the more we shall extend the duration of nature, and date the antiquity of the earth further back; for by supposing the heat of the sun was equal to the innate of the globe, we should find that the time of prolongation would be 38504 years, which consequently gives the earth a greater antiquity of 38 or 39000 years.

If we cast our eye on the table which M. de Mairan has calculated with great exactness, and in which he gives the proportion of the heat which comes to us from the sun, to that which emanates from the earth in all climates, we shall discover a well attested fact, which is, that in all climates where observations have been made, the summers are equal, whereas the winters are prodigiously unequal; this learned naturalist, attributes this constant equality of the intensity of heat in summer in all climates to the reciprocal compensation of the solar heat, and from the heat of the emanations of the central fire.

All naturalists who have employed themselves