

In this general consideration of the planetary revolutions in the universe, we have descended from the higher—though probably not the highest\* system—from that of the Sun to the subordinate partial systems of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. In the same way that, from the striving toward generalization of views, which is innate in thoughtful, and, at the same time, imaginative men, the unsatisfied cosmical presentiment of a translatory motion† of our solar system through space appears to suggest the idea of a higher relation and subordination, so the possibility has been conceived that the satellites of Jupiter may be again central bodies to other secondary ones, which, on account of their smallness, are unseen. In that case, the individual members of the partial systems, which are chiefly situated among the group of exterior principal planets, would have other and similar partial systems subordinate to them. Repetitions of form in recurring organizations, as well as the self-created images of the fancy, are certainly pleasing to a systematic mind; but in every serious investigation, it is imperatively necessary to distinguish between the ideal and the actual Cosmos—between the possible, and that which has been discovered by actual observation.

---

SPECIAL ENUMERATION OF THE PLANETS AND THEIR MOONS, AS  
PARTS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

IT is, as I have already often remarked, the especial object of a *physical description of the world* to bring together all the important and well-established numerical results which have been obtained in the domain either of *sidereal* or *terrestrial* phenomena up to the middle of the nineteenth century. All that has form and motion should here be represented as something *already created, existing, and definite*. The grounds upon which the obtained numerical results are founded; the cosmological conjectures respecting *genetic development*, which during thousands of years have been called into existence by the ever-changing conditions of mechanical and physical knowledge—these do not, in the strictest sense of the word, come within the range of *empirical* investigation. (*Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 47–49, 71, and 83.)

\* Compare *Cosmos*, vol. iii., p. 196.

† I have fully treated of the translatory motion of the Sun in the delineation of nature. (*Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 145–149. Compare also vol. iii., p. 184.)