

which the star is seen will undergo a semi-annual displacement to and fro to the amount of the *apparent* (angular) breadth of the orbit as it would be seen by a spectator in the star. And this, in its equivalent form of annual displacement, is the angle astronomers have to measure for the purpose in question. One would naturally suppose that so enormous a magnitude would be something conspicuous from any distance short of the fabulous; and that here at least we should have something to deal with palpable to very moderate means of observation. Pent up and "chafing within the narrow limit of the world" the astronomer in his measurement of the sun's distance might complain, in the words which the poet puts into the mouth of the great conqueror of antiquity, of restricted elbow-room. Using the world itself as a means of transport, and thus enabled to commence anew on so vast a scale, he might expect to find "ample room and verge enough" for his operations. Quite the contrary! The earth itself seen from the sun would appear as large as the *globe* of Saturn at its medium distance does to us—a very conspicuous object in a moderately good telescope. A globe large enough to fill the *earth's orbit round the sun* would appear to a spectator placed in the nearest fixed star, hardly larger than the third satellite of Jupiter, as seen from the earth; which requires a very good telescope to be perceived to have any *size* at all.

(20.) Two methods only have been devised by which this annual or *parallactic* displacement (as it is technically