it is found that one star appears to be subject to a regularly recurring annual displacement, *such as that which the earth's orbital motion might cause*, and others in its near neighbourhood show no signs of it, we can accept the double conclusion that the one is and the others are not at a measurable distance.

(21.) As the ancients had no knowledge of the earth's motion, so they could have had no conception of this annual displacement of the stars or of their "parallax." Tycho Brahe who rejected the Copernican system, might perhaps have been led to do so from his not having been able to perceive any such displacement of the pole star, which, from the rudeness of his means of observation, he could not possibly have done. Much more lately, in the latter years of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries, the attention of many eminent astronomers was drawn, in consequence of the improvements then introduced in the construction of astronomical instruments, to a regularly recurring annual displacement of certain stars observed by them to a very considerable amount, which was at first supposed to be *parallax*, but which proved to be what is now called "aberration," and to be common to all the stars; and when this was recognized finally by Bradley as a result of the motion of light, the idea of a measurable "parallax" was abandoned in despair; to be revived again by Dr Brinkley in 1810; who from his observations with a very fine circle in the Royal Observatory of Dublin *thought* he had detected a parallax of 1″ in the bright star Lyra (corresponding to an annual displacement of 2″). This however proved to be