

justified, when arguing against it, in assuming all the results of those laws as established truths: they being, in effect, the very things which the hypothesis is framed to account for. The law in question, constituted as the material universe is, is absolute and universal: and no view of matter and motion can be a true one which is incompatible with it.

(8.) The inward pressure of an ethereal medium surrounding the sun upon the earth and planets, suggested by Newton as a mode of escape from the metaphysical difficulty of attraction at a distance, is either only another form of the collision theory above combated, or an evasion of the difficulty by substituting repulsive for attractive force. If the ether press by its elasticity, besides supposing its particles endowed with the necessary amount of repulsion; what, it must be asked, but a repulsion emanating from the sun (and thereby equilibrating and rendering ineffective its inward pressure) is to keep it from rushing in on all sides, and destroying that inequality of density on which its supposed inward pressure depends? If not, its agency must be simply that of an inert resisting medium, rendering the continued revolution of the planets round the sun impossible, and *causing them, while it lasts, to rotate on their axes in a direction contrary to that of their orbital motion*, as a direct consequence of the more rapid abstraction of motion from their outer than from their inner hemispheres. The hypothesis of Le Sage which assumes that *every point of space* is penetrated at *every instant of time* by material particles, *sui generis*, moving in right lines in every possible