

have been, since fire-mist first began to form, a tendency of the liquid particles to coalesce, and this tendency would increase with the progress of cooling. A time would arrive when drops thus formed would begin to descend by gravity toward the center of the fire-mist sphere. They are not to be conceived as dropping with accelerated velocity, like bodies falling through space, since within the sphere, the central attraction continually diminishes as the distance from the center diminishes. At the center the attraction is equal in all directions. But the molten liquid began finally to accumulate at the center. It shaped itself in a globe which grew as the fiery precipitation continued. In the course of time, the greater part of the fire-mist had rained down, and a molten earth stood forth in space, glowing with a white heat, and enveloped in a hot and heterogeneous atmosphere which contained all the substances vaporized at the temperature then existing.

This self-luminous earth was a sun in reference to the moon. The moon had already advanced to a stage corresponding with that called habitable, and the light afforded its conceivable inhabitants was twelve times as intense as that received from the sun—assuming the distances the same as at present. The earth was a star, and had long been a star, to the inhabitants, if any, of remote orbs. Perhaps they had descried it with their instruments; perhaps it had been noted in their catalogues, with latitude and longitude thus and so. The sun was now shedding its superfluous light and heat on a planet which was yet itself a sun.

The molten earth continued to waste its heat. The exposed surface materials, as fast as chilled, sank into the interior by their superior density, and hotter materials rose to the surface. There was a circulation between the surface and interior. This prevented any extreme difference in temperature. But some greater reduction was always experienced at the surface. It was at the surface, therefore, that the first solidification took place. At this juncture, the sinking of the coolest portions ceased. Rock-materials, like all others which