numerous comets are deposited in the sun's vicinity. There can hardly be a doubt that the gaseous fuel for the sun's fire must either be produced thereby, or as by the theory of my work, from currents of the gases rushing through the regions of space for that purpose. It is indeed probable that both these sources of gaseous supply may be employed in nature; but the latter theory will also account for the tides by physical pressure, and for the great principle of attraction of the heavenly bodies, namely, the impetus of motion generated by a gaseous medium rushing through the regions of space; and I have accordingly adopted that theory in my System of the Creation.

NOTE TO FOURTH EDITION.

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In further corroboration of the formation of coal from marine plants and trees grown in the oceans, we observe that, in contemplating these immense masses of marine vegetable matter, we have a right to ask of those who argue terrestrial formation, what has become of those masses of marine vegetation after the termination of their vegetable life? Undoubtedly there can be no other satisfactory account given of this than that they have, like all other dead vegetable matter, suffered decomposition, and by means of the superincumbent pressure of other deposits of the oceans, and volcanic heats, have been changed and converted into seams of coal, as we now find them.

There they lay, containing a considerable quantity of ammonia, received from their contact with the animal deposits of the oceans, and which ammonia cannot be accounted for by the theory of formation from