

which revolve in large systems around some central sun. Around our own sun there are many of these revolving systems whose orbits must interlace and approach each other. Thus at times these systems of meteors come into contact and collide, motion is lessened, and they are drawn into the sun by the powerful grasp of gravity, thus helping to feed its continual fires. Some scientists ascribe to this the *continued* supply of the sun's heat, and, reasoning backward, have to this cause ascribed the source of all the sun's heat and that of the whole universe. This idea Proctor has taken in regard to the formation of the entire solar system. *Motion* is in this hypothesis, as in that of LaPlace, *presupposed*. "Countless millions of meteoric systems travelling in orbits of every degree of eccentricity and inclination; travelling also in all conceivable directions around the centre of gravity of the whole, would go to the making up of each individual planet. A marked tendency to aggregate around one definite plane, and to move in directions which referred to that plane corresponding to the present direction of planetary motion, would suffice to account for the present state of things. The effect of multiplied collisions would necessarily be to eliminate orbits of exaggerated eccentricity, and to form systems travelling nearly in the mean plane of the aggregate motions, and with a direct motion. Further, where collisions were most numerous there would be found not only the most circular resulting orbits; not only the greatest approach to exact coincidence of such orbits with the mean plane of the whole system, but the bodies formed out of the resulting systems would there exhibit rotations coinciding most nearly with the mean plane of the entire system." This, it is maintained, will explain the strange varieties in the size of the planets, the retrograde and almost perpendicular motion of the satellites of Uranus, and the systems of meteors which do not find full explanation in the Nebular Hypothesis. By this Meteoric Hypothesis many of the seeming irregularities of the solar system are explained as possible, since in it *chance* plays a greater part, and the sequence of phenomena cannot be calcu-