

fectly reflective canopy would effectually defend it from the radiation of the luminous regions above its atmosphere, and no heat would be conducted downward through a gaseous medium increasing rapidly in density.

The great mystery, however, is to conceive how so enormous a conflagration (if such it be) can be kept up from age to age. Every discovery in chemical science here leaves us com-

pletely at a loss, or rather seems to remove farther from us the prospect of explanation. If conjecture might be hazarded, we should look rather to the known possibility of an indefinite generation of heat by friction, or to its excitement by the electric discharge, than to any actual combustion of preponderable fluid, whether solid or gaseous, for the origin of the solar radiation.

