lunar tables, nautical almanacs and observatories shew that the moon's influence is not yet ignored. In the sharp conflicts which have overthrown numberless ancient conceits, veneration for the moon did not utterly perish by the hand of the iconoclast, but in spirit still lives. transformed into the attention paid to her by positive science and investigation of her physical influence upon the world we live in.

Much that is noteworthy concerning the moon is inscribed so boldly on the firmament above us that the most listless observer cannot choose but read and be instructed. From the earth's axial rotation, both sun and moon have an apparent motion from east to west none can fail to notice. In addition to this apparent motion toward the west, common to all the heavenly bodies, observation of the star-sphere will shew that sun and moon proceed on a course among the stars toward the east. But that motion, though similar in direction, is otherwise different. One day with another the moon moves eastward about 13 degrees daily, making the circuit of the heavens in a month, while the sun goes towards the east but 1 degree each day, requiring a year to complete his circuit. Moreover, the eastward motion of the sun is apparent only, being caused by the earth's translation in her orbit, while the moon's eastward course is her proper orbital motion round the earth.

In her monthly course the moon, whose light is received from the sun, assumes various familiar phases. When in conjunction, nearest the sun, she is for a day or two lost in the sun's brightness. After such temporary concealment each month, she comes again to view—a radiant sickle in the western sky. The limb, or convex outline of the waxing crescent, is toward the sun. The horns of the crescent, and terminator, or dividing line between the bright and dark parts of the disk, are to the left hand of the beholder. Immediately before concealment the waning moon shews a reversed crescent having its limb toward the east, and its horn and terminator to the beholder's right hand. When half her monthly course is run, the moon in opposition becomes full moon. From new to full moon the dark part of the disk gradually becomes illuminated, and from full moon till the waning crescent is lost in the blaze of the sunlight, the illuminated part of the disk by almost imperceptible degrees becomes obscured.