

4. The infinite abyss of space unbounded in every direction, which the Greeks called, *To PAN*, (every thing, the whole), the Latins, *INANE*, (the void), and we the Universe, comprehends innumerable Suns, round each of which as a centre, revolve a system of other bodies, called Planets or Worlds, receiving their light and heat therefrom. Now to have a just notion of any of these Sons, with his system of worlds moving round him, it will be sufficient to exhibit, briefly, a just and natural idea of the Solar or Mundane System; that is, the system of our Sun; so called from the Latin words, *SOL*, the Sun, and *MUNDUS*, the World.

5. The Sun, that immense and amazing globe of fire, the fountain of light and heat to the whole system, is about a million of times as large as our earth, and placed in the centre of the system, giving light and heat to seven primary and fifteen (or perhaps more) secondary planets, or opaque spherical bodies, which make their revolutions round him from west to east, in less or more time, according to their distances from him.

6. Mercury is the nearest to the sun; it is twenty times less than the earth, and revolves round the sun in two months and twenty-eight days.

7. Venus, the second planet in the system, is exactly as large as the earth, and revolves round the sun in seven months and fifteen days.

—Venus and Mercury, but especially the former, become evening and morning stars by turns; as shall be more fully explained farther on.

8. The Earth is the third planet from the sun, it moves round him in three hundred and sixty-five days, and six hours nearly, or one year; and being at a greater distance from the Sun than the two former planets, and therefore receiving less of his light and heat, to make up the deficiency, the wise Author of Nature has caused a secondary planet called the Moon, to move round it in twenty seven days and an half. The moon receives her light and heat from the sun, and reflects the same upon the earth; which in some measure compensates for the absence of the sun in the nights and winter seasons.

9. Mars,