

Thus, by the above extract from Arago's treatise on Comets, and from Dr. Lardner's lectures, it appears that our theory of the sun's formation is powerfully sanctioned and confirmed; and, I conceive I have great cause to congratulate myself on this circumstance. This theory of the sun is based on the undoubted fact that the gases of oxygen and hydrogen, of which the Ocean of Genesis was formed, must have been brought into a state of combustion before they could produce the Ocean of Genesis, and on the no less indubitable fact that a most stupendous quantity of heat and light must have been evolved from that combustion; and I then reasoned, that a sun being indispensably required to warm and light the planets of the systems, the Deity could not have applied this heat and light to a more needful purpose.

Many of my subscribers to the several Editions of my theory, and also many men of science, have done me the honour to approve of the same; but I have reason to believe that a few other persons, considering themselves, no doubt, of too superior acquirements to approve of anything that had not been previously taught in the schools of science, have rather sneered at this, which I with humility had presented to the world. However, as the justly celebrated Franklin's suggestions of the identity of Lightning and Electricity were at first laughed at by the Royal Society of London, I need not be surprised that the same may have happened to my suggestions on the nature of the sun and his combustion. But now that the gaseous theory is verified by so great authorities as Mr. Arago and the Paris Observatory, as shown by Doctor Lardner, I cannot but feel content and gratified. By the extract