

hesitating and retracing its steps, it completes a revolution around the heavens in about fourteen months.

The Greek astronomers having made the Earth the centre of the Universe, could not understand the apparent whims of this star. It was reserved for Copernicus to give an explanation. He explained that the Sun is the centre of the planetary system and that Venus revolves in a smaller orbit than the Earth, which accounts for its odd behavior. Another peculiarity of Venus is its phases, seen for the first time by Galileo, September, 1610, she being then near "Inferior Conjunction;" that is between the Sun and Earth. Its distance at such times is about twenty millions of miles. Continuing its revolution, it arrives at its "Superior Conjunction" and its distance from us has increased to one hundred and fifty-seven millions of miles.

Venus has mountains supposed to be five times as high as the highest on Earth. It has a diurnal revolution of 23h. 21m., and, owing to its orbit being nearly circular, its seasons are nearly equal in length. Succession of day and night takes place on its surface as on our Earth, and it has an atmosphere displaying all the colors of light. The marked variations of its seasons are owing to a greater inclination of its axis than that of the Earth. When the Sun in Summer comes about 28° North of the Equator, or say to Cuba; on the planet Venus; comparatively speaking, it would reach to Labrador. The poles are alternately submitted four months to the heat of an almost vertical Sun, and the torrid and frigid zones continually encroach on each other, causing constant atmospheric disturbances. It is therefore difficult to observe its geographical conformation; veiled, as it always is, by a disturbed atmosphere, caused by the rapid variations of the altitude of the Sun, the length of its days and the floating clouds generated by a sun twice as strong as that on the Earth.

Discovering so many points of resemblance to our Earth, and knowing that Nature is uniform in her proceedings; the same causes producing the same effects; why should we not conclude that there is life on the planet Venus? Of what use such provisions to sustain life, if life be not there?

There are, doubtless, now on Venus, beautiful groves, prairies studded with flowers, immense forests filled with

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