

In page 204, Mr. Brewster states a theory, by which the earth and planets are carried round the sun. This movement he considers is done by the power of electricity. In page 21 of the Appendix No. 2, to our sixth edition of the System of the Creation, I stated that—

"In addition to the strong arguments employed by Newton himself, (which will be seen in note 6, second edition, containing his explanation of gravitation by means of the elastic gaseous medium), I have to state, that it is known that electricity pervades almost all nature. Our atmosphere, our earth, and all water, especially when in a vaporized state, are charged with the electric fluid. Our earth is pervaded by magnetic and electric currents; and what I wish now to state, therefore, in addition to Sir Isaac Newton's arguments on the ethereal gaseous medium, is, that I conceive that medium is also excited to motion by the electric fluid. I believe that this electric fluid is a most potent agent of nature, by which she keeps the ethereal gaseous medium in a constant state of motion and activity, for producing the force which carries the planetary bodies in their courses round the sun; and I believe this is the very purpose for which this ethereal electric medium exists in space."

In this very important part of his work, I have then the pleasure of partly agreeing with him; for although our theory of the sun goes to shew that the enormous waste of his light and heat is restored by the oxygen and hydrogen gases brought to his vicinity by the comets; still, we are well aware, that both positive and negative electricity are evolved in the combustion of those gases, and, most probably, that is the mode by which a sufficient quantity of electric fluid is furnished to the system, which electricity, acting upon the gaseous medium of Sir Isaac Newton, produces sufficient force to carry the earth and planets in their revolution round the sun; and I should conceive that to effect this purpose, there are two currents of electricity employed by

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