

It is a well known *fact* that water is simply *burnt hydrogen gas*! It is also a *fact* (perhaps about equally well known) that *hydrogen gas in a burning condition* exists round about the surface of the sun for thousands of miles in height; yet no ocean of water forms over the surface of the sun; evidently because the great force of the sun's heat at present renders such an ocean impossible, by continually decomposing the vapor of water again into its constituent gases (hydrogen and oxygen) as rapidly as that vapour of water is formed by the constantly burning hydrogen, much as red hot iron instantly converts into vapour of water, or steam, whatever amount of water is brought into actual contact with it.

• We may thus see very plainly indeed that it is an *indisputable fact* that the sun is continually threatened with an ocean of water, by *the burning hydrogen* all over its surface, for so many thousands of miles in height; and that it is only by the constant expenditure of its stored force of heat, that this vast ocean of water is hindered from day to day from rapidly deluging the sun. It thus becomes evident at once what must *naturally* occur when the enormous force stored in the sun is at last so far exhausted that the sun can no longer furnish light and heat sufficient for the requirements of the several habitable worlds revolving around it! The sun most certainly must then become deluged with an ocean of water! A corresponding change must also as certainly occur in the condition of the revolving planets; all their oceans becoming decomposed into their constituent gases, that the oxy-hydric flames thus produced may act upon the various strata of rock for thousand of years, until all the stored force of light and heat is returned again to the sun; that animal and vegetable life may again be possible in that great central world of our solar system; and that an abundance of force may be again stored up upon its surface, when it again becomes, in its turn, a habitable world!

The well known "sun spots" (so plainly perceived with but a very small telescope when the eye is protected by a piece of dark glass) are probably caused by *the burnt hydrogen*, or the vapour of water, temporarily prevailing to a perceptible degree over some portions of the sun's surface.