

planets separated, crushed fractions of planetary crusts, temporarily detached from their planetary bodies, were suspended in space between two forces of attraction, or, as it were, between two great magnets. They had neither the power to follow the one, nor the power to follow the other. Since the two planets separated with great velocity, these broken particles of their crusts, of greater or smaller dimensions, remained "behind" or suspended in space between the rapidly separating planets. In the absence of an "up" and "down" in the universe,\* objects once suspended in space must so remain until some planet comes into their vicinity and attracts them. Now if it should happen that our planet should attract to itself, during the period between two collisions, more meteoric bodies than it lost in the first collision, it has of necessity increased. If it attracts fewer such bodies, it has with equal necessity decreased. That it should attract, during such a period, exactly as many meteoric particles as it lost, would be most unlikely. It follows that the matter of which our planet is composed, contains matter of which other planets are composed, and that the matter composing other planets contains matter that at some time or rather at often repeated intervals was part of the earth.

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\*The words "up" and "down" can be used only in reference to gravity. We can employ them commonly only in connection with the earth.