

pride is such that we pretend to understand, comprehend and measure everything. We select as the standard of weight, dimension and speed, our miserable stature of 5 feet 10 inches, our weight of 160 pounds, and our slow speed of three or four miles an hour. Any thing that exceeds these standards is to us a cause of surprise and wonder. An elephant fills us with astonishment. We look at the whale, the king monster of the deep, with wide-opened eyes, and then rub them, doubting whether they deceive us or not. Thus, when we gaze upon these gigantic fiery globes roaming through space, our terrestrial home appears to us, comparatively speaking, a mere nothing, like one of those myriads of atoms that dance in a sunbeam.

Now, if you penetrate further into the boundless deep, further than the planets, you soon discover what are termed the fixed stars. Six thousand of them can be counted with the naked eye. But if you take a telescope you may contemplate the fairy spectacle of 75,000,000 stars divided into 10 categories. 75,000,000 of stars! A real archipelago floating in illimitable space! What a grand spectacle! We know not the particular destination of each of these luminous globes which emit their radiance from afar, but, besides answering purposes in the Creator's plan worthy of his perfection and of their magnitude, they also have at least a remote relation to man in the decorations they throw around his earthly mansion. They serve as a glorious ceiling to his habitation: like so many thousand sparkling diamonds they are hung up in the magnificent canopy which covers his abode. What are the ceilings of our royal palaces, glittering with gold and crystal, or the decorations of a Vauxhall or a Versailles garden with their thousands of variegated lamps, compared to ten thousand suns diffusing their beams over our habitation from regions of space immeasurably distant? The stars not only adorn the roof of our sublunary mansion but they are in many respects useful to man. They serve to guide the traveller both on sea and land; they direct the navigator through the pathless ocean. They serve as a magnificent time piece and determine the true length of the days and years, and

mark with accuracy all their divisions.

Gentlemen, while roaming the aerial plains and leaping from star to star, I have, I fear, forgotten to mention our kind neighbour the moon—*Madame la Lune*—thus offending against the rules of etiquette with regard to one of the fair sex. It is no voluntary mistake of mine, and if I have sinned through masculine stiffness the fault must be repaired at once. There are many moons, you know; there is the half moon, the full moon, the April moon, the new moon and the honey-moon. To discourse on the latter might offer some attraction to a certain number of my hearers, but I feel I am quite incompetent and have no special mission to treat that subject. I shall merely speak of the moon such as it appears to us.

The moon is an opaque body: it borrows its light from the sun and revolves around the earth once a month.

A few words concerning the topography of our satellite. The moon is a mountainous globe. Many of these mountains have the shape of a sugar loaf. Thirty of them attain the height of five and even six miles. Circular mountains with circular cavities, the diameter of which reaches 25 and 30 miles, are seen in the southern hemisphere of our satellite; sometimes mountains rise from the centre of these cavities. When viewed through the most powerful telescope the moon appears to us as if seen with the naked eye at the distance of 60 miles only. Yet such distance does not permit us to ascertain whether it is inhabited or not. Since no clouds have ever been seen floating on its surface astronomers have come to the somewhat hasty conclusion that there are neither seas, nor rivers or streams in the moon, for if there were any these waters would, in the absence of an atmosphere be reduced to vapour and form clouds. The geographical aspect of the moon is that of a solid arid mass very rugged at its surface. Destined by God Almighty to rule the night her empire is that of solitude, silence and peace. She is our nearest neighbour and follows the earth in its vertiginous waltz around the sun. She is 250,000 miles from us; a mere trifle when compared with the prodigious distances we have already mentioned.