

nothing could excuse the illogical manner in which assumption is incorporated in it. *The circular form* of "the shadow" seen during a lunar eclipse, is, by itself considered, of no importance, whatever, as a proof of the Earth's globularity; because, if it can be shown that it is the Earth that casts the shadow, then, its globularity is a foregone conclusion; and for this reason: before the Earth, (*viz.* land and seas), can be conceived to cast a shadow at all, it must be independently proved, that land and seas together constitute a body, self-contained, and isolated, in space. Such a body, possessed of the motions in space which are attributed to the Earth, must, of necessity, be globular. This fact is recognised by Copernicus and his followers, and the globular form of the Earth is, therefore, assumed by Copernicans as the very basic doctrine of their system. In the statement, then, that the darkening of the Moon's face during an eclipse is caused by a shadow cast upon it by the Earth, it is implicitly assumed, that the Earth is so situated, in space, that it is in a position to cast a shadow, and, as pointed out, such an assumption involves the *pre-assumption* that the Earth is a globe.

Let the elements vital to the shadow proof derived from the phenomenon of a lunar eclipse first be demonstrated. Let the Moon be proved a reflector, let the position of the Earth in space be established, and let it be proved that it is the Earth that casts the 'shadow.' If this is first done, we need not be required, as at present, to lay aside all rules of logic, and give credence to a proof, so-called, every essential proposition of which is an assumption.

No *fact* of *practical* astronomy can ever suffer from any test applied to it. As we have said above, the spherical shape of the Earth is the very basic feature of the Copernican System of Astronomy, and, as such, this shape should be established by the most unquestionable proofs. Now two of the most important proofs given for the Earth's spherical form have been seen to be unsound. If our enquiry were extended further, it might be found, that amongst all the proofs given in the text books, and taught to our youth, as the veriest facts, none could be shown