

that some great purpose of utility to the system, and to us its inhabitants, is thereby fulfilled, which now we shall have the pleasure of searching out. . . . If one might speculate upon the effect of the whole system of curves upon very large masses, and these masses were in plates or rings, then they would, according to analogy with the magnetic field, place themselves equatorially. If Saturn were a magnet, as the earth is, and his ring composed of diamagnetic substances, the tendency of the magnetic forces would be to place it in the position which it actually has.

"It is a curious sight to see a piece of wood, or of beef, or an apple, or a bottle of water, repelled by a magnet; or taking the leaf of a tree, and hanging it up between the poles, to observe it take an equatorial position. Whether any similar effects occur in nature among the myriads of forms which, upon all parts of its surface, are surrounded by air, and are subject to the action of lines of magnetic force, is a question which can only be answered by future observation.

"The lecture which occupied nearly two hours in the delivery, was listened to throughout with undivided attention by the auditory, who at the close, manifested their pleasure in loud and enthusiastic plaudits. We cannot conclude our notice better than in Professor Faraday's own words:—It will be better to occupy both time and thought, aided by experiment, in the investigation and development of real truth, than to use them in the invention of suppositions which may or may not be founded on, or consistent with, fact."

Having referred the reader to the Appendix No. 2, he will now understand the purport of the foregoing extract, which we consider as a strong support and sanction of the idea stated in that Appendix, namely, "that electricity has a great share in effecting the rotation of the planets round the sun."

"If Saturn," says the Professor, "were a magnet, as the earth is, and his ring composed of diamagnetic matter, the tendency of the magnetic forces would be to place it in the position which it actually has."

The immortal Newton made the discovery of the great

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