

40°, and the latter from 3° to 70° with the plane of the sun's equator, to say nothing of the eccentricities of the comets. Moreover, the direction of revolution of the satellites of Uranus and Neptune is retrograde. Then, the velocities, mass, densities, temperature, and physical condition of the planets, especially of the earth, are shown to be different from what they ought to be according to the terms of the hypothesis. We confess that our faith in this beautiful theory is a good deal shaken. We lack the mathematical skill to verify the astronomical calculations involved, and competent critics have questioned some of Mr. Slaughter's positions. The whole subject, like that of biological evolution, which is a sort of pendant to it, may safely be labelled, "Not proven." Mr. Proctor, one of the most eminent living astronomers, it is known, rejects the nebular hypothesis; but his theory of the aggregation of the planets by the collision of meteoric matter is also involved in great difficulties. Whether one agrees with Mr. Slaughter's book or not, it will be found fascinating reading and a capital intellectual whetstone on which to sharpen the wits.

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