

tance which the earth deviates from the tangent of its orbit; which tangent the earth would follow, in virtue of its inertia, did not some cause draw it towards the solar centre?"

Of this brilliant and novel conjecture, the learned editor of *Le Cosmos*, from whom we extract the above, remarks, that it seems to be one of those happy inspirations which belong to truth alone; and he adds, "there is great merit in having originated an idea which has never before presented itself to the human intelligence and which, in time to come, may bring forth fruitful results."—*Le Cosmos*, Nov. 21, 1862.

T. S. H.

REVIEW.

DANA'S MANUAL OF GEOLOGY.*

In no part of the world has the science of geology been more successfully cultivated than in North America. But the results that have been arrived at, are scattered through a multitude of reports of the different surveys, and papers of greater or less length in the scientific journals. Up to the present time he who has endeavored to get a clear idea of the geology of the whole North American continent has found it necessary to devote more time and means to the object, than most students can well afford. In the important work, just issued by Professor Dana, this great difficulty is removed. We have now in one compact and beautifully illustrated book, not only a comprehensive and well-balanced account of the elementary principles of the science, but also the general results of what has been ascertained of the geology of this continent, down to the present moment. We have not, just now, leisure to give a full review of this excellent publication, and must therefore content ourselves with a mere glance at its contents. Prof. Dana has divided his subject into four parts, as follows.—

1. **PHYSIOGRAPHIC GEOLOGY.**—In this part of the work, are described the forms of the earth's surface, as exhibited in the

*Manual of Geology: treating of the principles of the science with special reference to American Geological History, for the use of Colleges, Academies, and Schools of Science. By James D. Dana, M. A., LL. D., Silliman Professor of Geology and Natural History in Yale College, &c., &c. Illustrated by a chart of the world, and over one thousand figures, mostly from American sources. Philadelphia: published by Theodore Bliss & Co. London: Trübner & Co. 1863. Small 8vo, pp. 812.