The comet called Biela's, from its discoverer, which revolves around the sun in about seven years, in one of its recent returns, divided into two parts, which moved on together, with no apparent mutual influence. This fact proves, if proof were wanting, the extreme tenuity of the matter. The parts move along together just like two wreaths of smoke or vapor, and have occupied the same relative position for at least one revolution, except that they are receding from each other.

So successful have Lord Rosse and others been in resolving nebulæ, of late, that some astronomers are confident that all of them will be found, at length, to consist of stars. But such masses as the Magellanic Clouds of the southern hemisphere, and especially the facts respecting spiral nebulæ, make it more probable that some of them consist rather of diffused patches of self-luminous vapor, analogous to comets. On the hypothesis that they are made up of fixed stars, it is quite impossible to account for their spiral form. But if the matter has been in motion in a resisting medium, it would have assumed a spiral form, and be disseminated all along its course towards the centre of attraction.

The curious facts that are established by modern astronomers respecting double stars prove that the great law of gravitation extends to other systems beyond the solar. More than one quarter of the stars, according to Struve, are double; and, in several instances, it is proved that these stars revolve about each other in elliptic orbits, in periods between 43 and 1200 years. Taking these facts in connection with the periodical disappearance and reappearance of some stars, with the occasional sudden bursting forth of a new star, and the total extinguishment of others, we are led to doubt whether our solar system is a type, in all respects, of the entire universe, though probably the same general laws pre-