not resolvable, which, producing a general brightness in the field of view, form, as it were, the back-ground of the picture." The appearance of these clouds, of the brightly-beaming constellation Argo, of the Milky Way between Scorpio, the Centaur, and the Southern Cross, the picturesque beauty, if one may so speak, of the whole expanse of the southern celestial hemisphere, has left upon my mind an ineffaceable impression. The zodiacal light, which rises in a pyramidal form, and constantly contributes, by its mild radiance, to the external beauty of the tropical nights, is either a vast nebulous ring, rotating between the Earth and Mars, or, less probably, the exterior stratum of the solar atmosphere. Besides these luminous clouds and nebulæ of definite form, exact and corresponding observations indicate the existence and the general distribution of an apparently non-luminous, infinitely-divided matter, which possesses a force of resistance, and manifests its presence in Encke's, and perhaps also in Biela's comet, by diminishing their eccentricity and shortening their period of revolution. Of this impeding, ethereal, and cosmical matter, it may be supposed that it is in motion ; that it gravitates, notwithstanding its original tenuity ; that it is condensed in the vicinity of the great mass of the Sun ; and, finally, that it may, for myriads of ages, have been augmented by the vapor emanating from the tails of comets.

If we now pass from the consideration of the vaporous matter of the immeasurable regions of space (οὐρανοῦ χόρτος)* —whether, scattered without definite form and limits, it exists as a cosmical ether, or is condensed into nebulous spots, and becomes comprised among the solid agglomerated bodies of the universe—we approach a class of phenomena exclusively designated by the term of stars, or as the sidereal world.

* I should have made use, in the place of garden of the universe, of the beautiful expression χόρτος οὐρανοῦ, borrowed by Hesychius from an unknown poet, if χόρτος had not rather signified in general an inclosed space. The connection with the German *garten* and the English *garden*, *gards* in Gothic (derived, according to Jacob Grimm, from *gairdan, to gird*), is, however, evident, as is likewise the affinity with the Sclavonic *grad, gorod*, and as Pott remarks, in his *Etymol. Forschungen*, th. i., s. 144 (Etymol. Researches), with the Latin *chors*, whence we have the Spanish *corte*, the French *cour*, and the English word *court*, together with the Ossetic *khart*. To these may be further added the Scandinavian *gard*,ᵃ *gård*, a place inclosed, as a court, or a country seat, and the Persian *gerd, gird*, a district, a circle, a princely country seat, a castle or city, as we find the term applied to the names of places in Firdusi's Schahnameh, as *Siyawakschgird, Darabgird*, &c.

ᵃ [This word is written *gaard* in the Danish.]—*Tr.*