

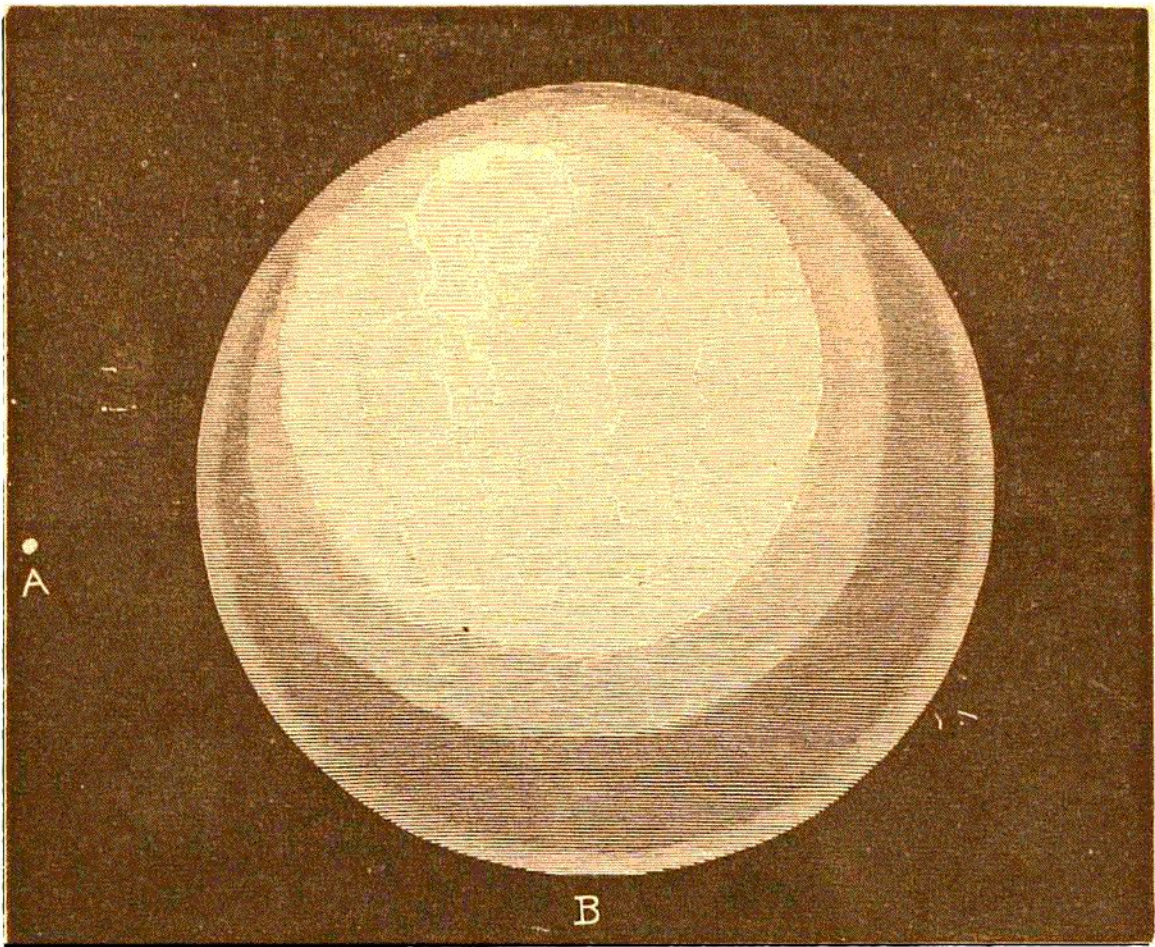


Fig. 11. Comparative volume of the earth in the gaseous and solid state.
 A. The earth in its present condition. B. The volume of the earth when an igneous vapor.

We dare go no farther; we can go no farther. If science leads us here, she deserts us at this point, and leaves created the heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form, and void." These interesting utterances will be further considered in another work. A primordial condition of things seems to have been a favorite conception of the ancient philosophers and poets. What a consistent picture is given by Ovid in the "Metamorphoses:"

"Ante, mare et tellus, et quod tegit omnia cælum,
 Unus erat toto Naturæ vultus in orbe,
 Quem dixere chaos; rudis indigestaque moles;
 Nec quidquam, nisi pondus iners; congestaque eodem
 Non bene junctarum discordia semina rerum.
 Nullus adhuc mundo præbebat lumina Titan;
 Nec nova crescendo reparabat cornua Phœbe;
 Nec circumfuso pendebat in aëre tellus
 Ponderibus librata suis; nec brachia longo
 Margine terrarum porrexerat Amphitrite.
 Quaque fuit tellus, illic et pontus et aër;
 Sic erat instabilis tellus, innabilis unda;
 Lucis egens aër; nulli sua forma manebat."