

one the twentieth part of an inch in diameter, the other two inches and three quarters.

At this excessive temperature the gaseous mass, which we have described, would shine in space as the sun does at the present day ; and with the same brilliancy as that with which, to our eyes, the fixed stars and planets shine in the serenity of night, as represented on the

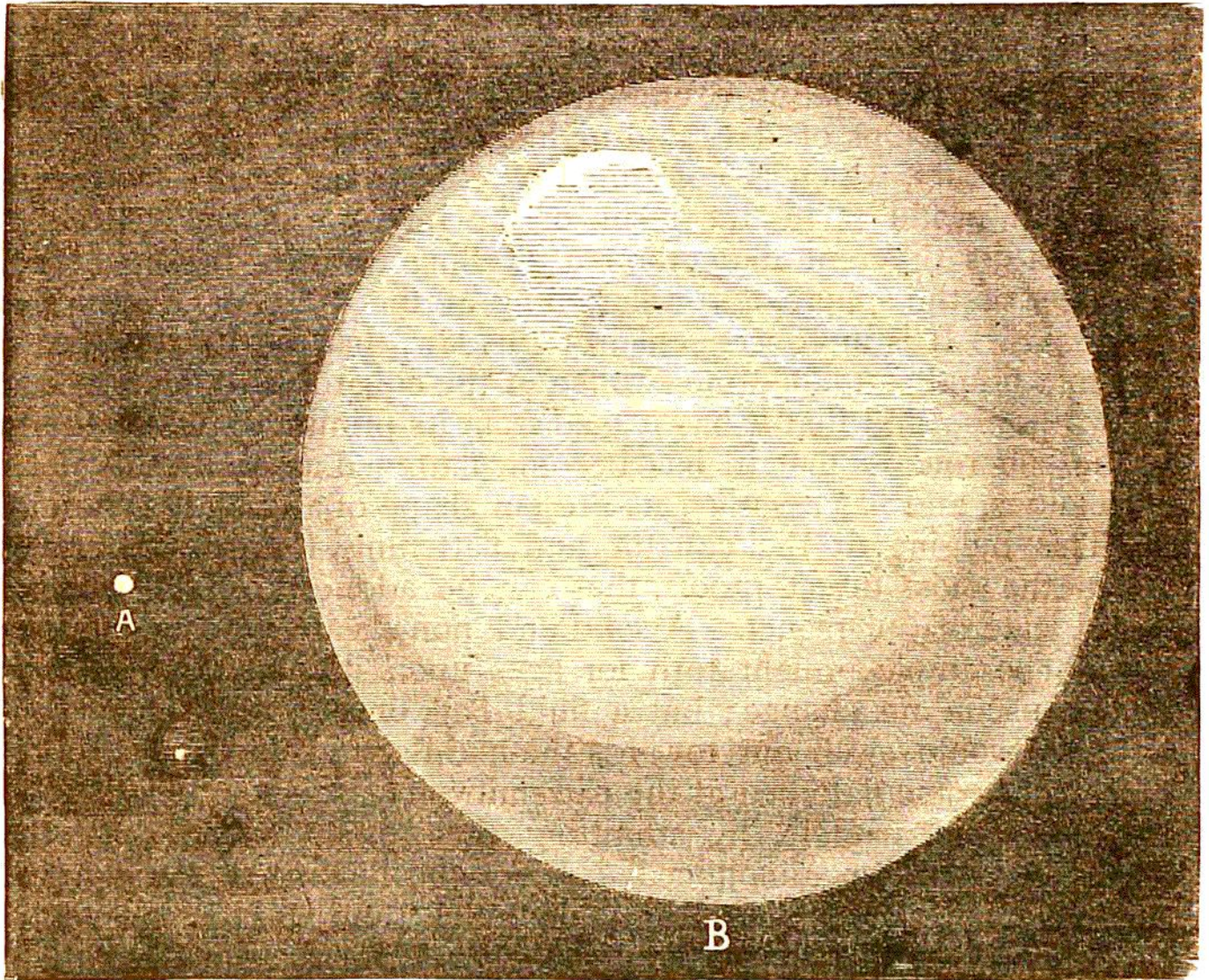


Fig. 12.—Comparative volume of the earth in the gaseous and solid state.

opposite page (PLATE VI). Circulating round the sun in obedience to the laws of universal gravitation, this incandescent gaseous mass was necessarily regulated by the laws which govern other material substances. As it got cooler it gradually transferred part of its warmth to the glacial regions of the inter-planetary spaces, in the midst of which it traced the line of its flaming orbit. Consequent on its continual cooling (but at the end of a period of time of which it