

the universe gradually changed, by increasing refrigeration and condensation, into the fiery fluid or molten state of aggregation. By the process of condensation, a great quantity of heat was emitted, and the rotating suns, planets, and moons soon changed into glowing balls of fire, like gigantic drops of melted metal, which emitted light and heat. By loss of heat, the melted mass on the surface of the fiery fluid ball became further condensed, and thus arose a thin, firm crust, which enclosed a fiery fluid nucleus. In all essential respects our mother earth probably did not differ from the other bodies of the universe.

In view of the object of these pages, it will not be of especial interest to follow in detail the *history of the natural creation of the universe*, with its different solar and planetary systems, and to establish it mathematically by the different astronomical and geological proofs. The outlines of it, which I have just mentioned, must be sufficient here, and for further details I refer to Kant's \* "General History of Nature and Theory of the Heavens,"<sup>22</sup> and to Carus Sterne's admirable work, "The Coming into Existence and the Passing Away" ("Werden und Vergehen").<sup>26</sup> I will only add that this wonderful theory, which might be called *the cosmological gas theory*, harmonizes with all the general series of phenomena at present known to us, and stands in no irreconcilable contradiction to any one of them. Moreover, it is purely mechanical or monistic, makes use exclusively of the inherent forces of eternal matter, and entirely excludes every supernatural process, every prearranged and conscious action of a personal Creator. Kant's Cosmological Gas Theory consequently occupies a similar supreme position in

\* "Allgemeine Naturgeschichte und Theorie des Himmels."