

ceived at the present time with peculiar indulgence and interest, in consequence not only of the brilliant deductive discovery lately made of the new planet exterior to Uranus, but also of the extraordinary and exciting intelligence which has just arrived from Dorpat, of the presumed discovery, by Professor Mädler, of a *central cluster* (the Pleiades), and of a *central sun* (Alcinoe, called also Eta Tauri) : around which cluster, and which sun or star, it is believed by Mädler that our own sun and all the other stars of our sidereal system, including the milky way, but exclusive of the more distant nebulæ, are moving in enormous orbits, under the combined influences of their own mutual attractions, all regulated by the same great law.

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Sir William Hamilton exhibited Professor Mädler's work, *Die Centralsonne*, Dorpat, 1846, in which, as a first provisional attempt to determine the orbit of our own sun, with the help of the proper motions of a great number of stars, combined with Bessel's parallax of 61 Cygni, Mädler assigns to what he regards as the Central Sun, Alcinoe, a distance amounting to thirty-four million times the distance of our sun from us; concluding, also, but still only as first approximations, that the period of our sun's revolution is about eighteen millions of years, and that its orbit has now an inclination to the ecliptic of about 84 degrees, with an ascending node, of which the present longitude is nearly 237°.

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A chart of observed places of Le Verrier's Planet was also exhibited by Sir William Hamilton; and was illustrated by comparison with Bremiker's Star-Map, which also was laid upon the table.