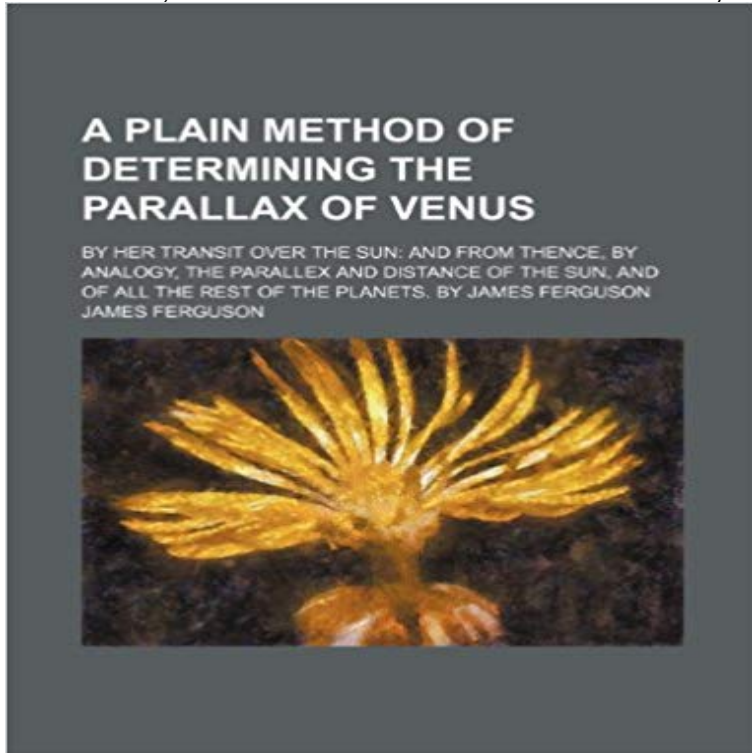


A Plain Method of Determining the Parallax of Venus; By Her Transit Over the Sun and From Thence, by Analogy, the Parallax and Distance of the Sun, ... the Rest of the Planets. by James Ferguson



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1761. Excerpt: ... t. THE METHOD O F Finding the Distances of the Planets from the SUN. ARTICLE L Concerning the mean distances of the planets j. p m HE proportional, or relative meandistances of the planets from the Sun, is already known to a sufficient degree of I exactness; for, the stated laws by which they move, and are retained in their orbits, are such, that if the1 Earths mean distance from the Sun (whatever it be as to the number of miles) be divided into 1 000 equal parts, Mercurys mean distance from the Sun must be equal to 387 of such parts; Venuss mean distance, to 723; Marss mean distance, 1524; Jupiters, 5201; and Saturns, 9540.--But how many miles are contained in any givennumber of such parts, is not yet accurately known. The-J-Suns horizontal parallax is such, that we are sure his mean distance from the Earth is not less than 66 millions of English miles, nor much greater than 83; but what it really is between these two numbers, we know not. Most of our modern Astronomers have: reckoned it 81; and if it be so, Mercurys mean distance from the AH the planets move about the Sun in elliptical orbits, and the Sun is in the lower focus of all their orbits. Therefore they must be nearer the Sun at some times than at others; and when they are mid-way between their greatest and least distances, from the Sun, they are said to be at their mean distances from him. t The nature of parallaxes, will be described in the third article B Sum Sun must be 31347000 miles; Venus-s mean distance, 58563000; Mars.s, 12344.4000; Jupiters, 421281000; and Saturns, 772740030. For, as 1000 is to 387, so js Bioooooo.to 3134700 miles, for the distance of Mercury from the Sun. And, as

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