

**ASTRONOMICAL
INVESTIGATIONS. THE
COSMICAL RELATIONS
OF THE REVOLUTION OF THE
LUNAR APSIDES. OCEANIC TIDES**

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Astronomical Investigations. The Cosmical Relations of the Revolution of the Lunar Apsides.
Oceanic Tides by Henry F. A. Pratt

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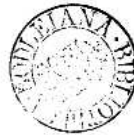
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BY
HENRY F. A. PRATT, M.D.



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P R E F A C E.

WHEN Pilate asked the question, What is truth? the apocryphal gospel of Nicodemus affirms that he was told in reply, that—Truth is from heaven: but that it is on earth, among those who, when they have the power of judgment, are governed by truth, and form right judgment.

Three conditions are thus declared to be necessary to the enunciation of the truth in all cases: the power of judging, the acceptance of true evidence, and the formation of a right judgment.

In Astronomical Science the combination of these conditions is very rare, for the power, when unconsciously severed from the will, fails to recognise the value of the evidence; or else, comprehending its force, permits it to remain unverified, as though valueless; the sense of the imperative duty of forming the right judgment, when the true evidence is presented, being only too often wanting, here as elsewhere, in those who have the power of judging, but not the courage to face the consequences of their judgment: for, perhaps unfortunately, those with whom, by an almost universal sufferance, if not necessarily, the power of judging is permitted to rest in this science, are parties in any issue that may be raised in which accepted theories are controverted, and thus are virtually made the judges

in their own cause; for the unlearned public admits its incompetence to decide in such cases; but, as a consequence of this special interest, they almost unavoidably read all evidence that may be submitted to them through the distorting lens of their own preconceived opinions.

In the judgment of facts, however, on which observation can be brought to bear, and where prejudice must yield to the determining and determined results of a rigid scrutiny, they will, themselves, become truthful witnesses when their attention is sufficiently roused to the bearings of any given fact to the verification of which they are invited. The Author, therefore, now appeals to them, the practical astronomers, who are also through the force of circumstances the judges in his cause, to test the value of his views as to the true cosmical relations of the revolution of the lunar apsides, and the teachings that can be drawn from tidal phenomena considered in their oceanic origin; confident that if they can be once led to see the importance, not to say the necessity, of reconsidering accepted theories on these points, through a new and possibly true bearing of the actually observed facts,—the true evidence on which their judgment ought to be based, the right judgment will come, and these Astronomical Investigations not have been written in vain.

THE COSMICAL RELATIONS
OF THE
REVOLUTION OF THE LUNAR APSIDES.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following paper on "The Cosmical Relations of the Revolution of the Lunar Apsides" was written at the suggestion of a friend, who considered the author's astronomical opinions of sufficient importance to deserve a formal discussion, and therefore kindly offered to communicate them to the Royal Society. It was accordingly placed in the hands of one of the secretaries of that Society, but returned by him as not suitable for the consideration of its members.

Perhaps it was declined because an attempt has been made in it to free an abstruse and difficult subject from the technicalities and obscurities in which it is commonly involved, by reducing the principles through which some of the phenomena resulting from revolving motion, combined with a gravitating attraction in a complex system, ought to be interpreted, to simple geometrical demonstrations, stripped of algebraic formulæ and symbolic calculations: though it may have been because the views advanced in it do not agree with the opinions of the day.

However this may be, the author regrets that an opportunity for discussion has been denied to him, for he conceives the whole subject to be of sufficient importance to deserve examination, notwithstanding any *seeming* unscientific method in the manner in which it is approached; while, if learned societies decline to discuss unaccepted