

agree with that given in the *Mécanique Céleste*. According to the expression of Laplace the body might take a motion of translation; to this objections were formerly made by Dr. Young, and it will be noticed with interest that these objections are now confirmed by M. Poisson. The Council have awarded the Medal to the author, in order to testify the high sense which they entertain of the importance of the researches contained in the work in question.

The Society next proceeded to the election of the Council and Officers for the ensuing year, when the following was declared to be the list:—

*President*: His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, K.G.—*Treasurer*: John William Lubbock, Esq. M.A.—*Secretaries*: Peter Mark Roget, M.D., John George Children, Esq.—*Foreign Secretary*: Charles König, Esq.

*Other Members of the Council*: Francis Baily, Esq.; Captain Francis Beaufort, R.N.; Mark Isambard Brunel, Esq.; Rev. William Buckland, D.D.; Samuel Hunter Christie, Esq. M.A.; William Clift, Esq.; Rev. James Cumming, M.A.; Benjamin Gompertz, Esq.; Joseph Henry Green, Esq.; George Bellas Greenough, Esq.; William George Maton, M.D.; Roderick Impey Murchison, Esq.; William Hasledine Pepys, Esq.; Stephen Peter Rigaud, Esq. M.A.; Rev. Richard Sheepshanks, M.A.; Rev. William Whewell, M.A.

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December 6, 1832.

WILLIAM GEORGE MATON, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Decimus Burton, Esq.; Charles Purton Cooper, Esq. LL.D.; and Edward Ayshford Sanford, Esq. M.P.; were elected Fellows of the Society.

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December 13, 1832.

JOHN WILLIAM LUBBOCK, Esq. M.A., V.P. and Treasurer, in the Chair.

A paper was read, entitled, "On the extensive atmosphere of Mars." In a Letter to His Royal Highness the President. By Sir James South, Knt. F.R.S.

In this paper the author gives an account of a further observation which corroborates the conclusion he had stated in a former communication "On the extensive atmosphere of Mars," namely, that no indication now existed of any atmosphere being attached to that planet. A star retained its light blue colour, and its full brilliancy and comparative steadiness till the very instant of its occultation by Mars. At its emersion it was seen nearly dichotomised. The author concludes, that either some physical change has occurred in the atmosphere of that planet, or that the observations of Cassini and of Roemer were inaccurate.