



THE SUN AND THE PLANETS, THEIR COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS.

THE accompanying illustration (borrowed from Guillemin's 'Le ciel') shows at a glance the relative size of the sun and planets. The sun is represented in an abnormally spotted condition, it being doubtful whether he ever displays so pitted a face. The small planets, or asteroids, one or more of which are discovered each month, could not be represented on so small a scale, as they would be invisible, the actual diameters of some not being more than a few miles. The overwhelming size of the sun is well brought out; its volume is six hundred times that of all the planets; and, if placed in a balance, it would outweigh seven hundred and forty times their total mass. The following table shows the relative masses and densities of the planets:—

PLANETS.	MASS.	DENSITY.	PLANETS.	MASS.	DENSITY.	PLANETS.	MASS.	DENSITY.	PLANETS.	MASS.	DENSITY.
Mercury . .	0.075	1.376	Earth . . .	1.000	1.000	Jupiter . .	309.028	0.243	Uranus . . .	18.542	0.220
Venus . . .	0.787	0.905	Mars . . .	0.109	0.692	Saturn . . .	92.394	0.133	Neptune . .	15.771	0.211