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[From the Savannah Georgian.]

COMETS.

Whether the eccentric, erratic, long-tailed creature, called a Comet, which has frightened many old women out of their growth, be a habitable planet or fiery globe; whether its 2000 times hotter than red iron in its perihelion, and as many times colder than ice in its aphelion; whether its prodigious tail is the vapour of its own body, raised by the heat of the sun, as New on supposed, or its own atmosphere illuminated by the solar rays, or the sun's beams passing through the comet's transparent nucleus, (like a candle through a key hole) as Tycho Bane and others maintain; whether the tail is sometimes 33 millions of miles in length, (as astronomers assert) or only about 20 feet; whether the mysterious creature attends its own concerns or is engaged in the menial office of carrying fuel to the sun, (as Newton thought); whether it is generated from the sun's body like the solar macula (as Helvelius asserts) or is a primary orb; whether it is about the size of a shuttlecock, or three times as large as the earth (as astronomers maintain); whether its approach to the earth occasioned Noah's flood, and flattened the poles and thereby changed the length of our year from 360 days to 365 and more (as Whiston surmises); whether its orbit extends 4 times as far from us as Saturn, (as astronomers say) or only a short distance over the river; whether there be but 4 or 5 comets in the universe, or whether 500 have appeared since the Christian era and about 100 before it, as is asserted; whether a comet is *Hell*, (as some have conjectured) or a post-chaise for the transportation of emigrant souls from world to world; in short, whether it is thus, or thus, or—thus, I shall not pretend to assert or deny, but certain it is that the appearance of a comet is generally connected with extraordinary events in the moral and physical world. It is generally preceded or followed closely by wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilence, and famine! A little attention to this subject will prove this position.

A comet appeared 44 years before Christ, when Julius Cæsar was assassinated—in 47 the Alexandrian Library was burnt; a civil war raged in Rome and Cicero was assassinated in 43; Cato killed himself and the great republic of Rome terminated in 42. Another comet appeared Anno Domini 531; in 534 a great plague raged in Europe, Asia and Africa, which lasted 50 years; in 528 an earthquake at Antioch destroyed 5000 souls. Another appeared in 1106, which was between the first and second crusades; there were earthquakes in England in the years 1009, 1110, 1112. Another appeared in 1264 being two years before the commencement of a civil war in England. Another appeared in 1305, being the year before Scotland was subdued by Edward the first—in 1318 there was the greatest earthquake ever known in England. Another appeared in 1456; there was an earthquake in Naples which destroyed 40,000 souls! Three years before this Constantinople was taken by the Turks, and the Eastern Empire was overthrown.—Another appeared in 1556—there was an earthquake in China; in 1553 a civil war broke out in England; in 1557 England went to war with Scotland and France; and in 1556 Charles the fifth was fighting Europe with his ambition and power. Another appeared in 1607, being four years after the great plague in London; two years after the famous

gun-powder plot; three years before the assassination of Henry the fourth; in 1600 there was a tremendous earthquake in South-America. Another appeared in 1618, being the year before the 30 years war broke out between England and Germany; in 1624 England went to war with Spain; in 1628 London was ravaged by the plague; there was an earthquake in the East-Indies three years after this comet's appearance. Another appeared in 1665; London was then visited by the plague, and the great fire which nearly destroyed that vast city—in 1666, England went to war with France and Denmark. Another appeared in 1532; there was an earthquake in Cuba 1530; cannon were first used in battle when this comet appeared. Another appeared in 1577; war between England and Scotland, was raging; 3 years after Portugal was seized by Philip II. of Spain. Another appeared in 1652—being a year after the war between the English and Dutch; three years after Charles I. was beheaded; one year before the bloody Cromwell became protector—earthquakes in Norway the year before this comet, and in France, 8 years after it. Another appeared in 1680, and another in 1682—earthquakes at Oxford 1683, at Staffordshire and Derbyshire 1687; at Naples 88; at Oxfordshire and Staffordshire 79—in 79 the meal-tub plot; in 83 the rye-house plot, which was prevented by a fire at Newmarket. Another appeared in 1744 and England went to war with France; the year after it the battle of Fontenoy; the rebellion in Scotland; the battle of Preston-Pans, and the year following the battles of Ronoux and Culloden—there was an earthquake at Leghorn in 1742; in Somersetshire in 45; a tremendous one at Lima in 46; one at London and Liverpool in 50.—Another appeared in 1769, when Bonaparte was born; in 68 there were earthquakes at Buda and Comora; in 72 at Brazils; in 70 in the Archipelago; 75 in Ireland; in 73 a most awful and destructive one at Guatimala. Another appeared in 1723, being 3 years after a plague at Versailles; in 1727 there were earthquakes in England; in 1718 in China; in 1736 in Sicily; 1727 in Boston; in 1730 a tremendous one in Chili.—Another appeared in 1759, being the year before George the third was born; three years after the English and French war began; nine years after the earthquake at London; four years after the destruction of Lisbon by earthquakes; four years before Grand Cairo was destroyed by an earthquake, and the very year in which an earthquake in Barbary destroyed 60,000 souls.

Thus it appears, that comets are connected, either by cause or accident, with extraordinary events. If I were to search the chronology of the whole world every comet above-mentioned would be found associated with many more wonderful events than I have enumerated. During the present generation comets have seemed to usher in the most astonishing events in the annals of history. A comet appeared in 1805, when the Republican era of France was dissolved and the most wonderful events ensued. The comet of 1811 ushered in our earthquakes, our war, our winter epidemic, our spots in the sun, and extraordinary weather. We shall see what the present comet signifies anon. The plague is now ravaging the kingdom of Morocco, Fez, Rabat, Tetuna, Tangiers; an earthquake has, (a few months ago) done some injury to Caraccas; there are rumors of war between Sweden and the allies; there are secret commotions in France; attempts have been made to assassinate or take Alexander prisoner; the times are hard beyond example—several banks have broke, and Tybee much infested with musquitoes!

Now the question is, whether a comet is accidentally associated with remarkable events, or whether it is the generating cause of them; I be-

lieve the latter may be affirmed and philosophically maintained, and I shall do it in defiance of the charge of superstition. At the outset I will check the sneer of ridicule, by informing those who are ignorant of the fact, that the profound Sir Isaac Newton thought that the tail of a comet probably mingled with the earth's atmosphere and thereby affected animal and vegetable bodies. But a comet may otherwise act upon the earth.

1st. A comet is sometimes many millions of miles nearer to the earth than at others, and when nearest it must add something to the quantum of attraction which acts upon the mind and matter on the earth's surface. (It would be well to observe whether the polarity of the needle is not affected in a very minute degree by a comet.) Now, this additional attraction, though small, may produce great effects upon the human mind and upon all bodies—this attraction may produce earthquakes, for earthquakes are caused by a sudden transit of electricity from one stratum of earth to another, or from the earth to the atmosphere, and we can easily imagine that the equilibrium of electricity may be disturbed by the slight attraction of a comet. If, as some conjecture, a comet's tail consists of electricity; and if its electricity be positive and the earth charged with the negative, the attraction between them may sometimes be felt. Thus may comets produce earthquakes.

2d. The near approach of a comet to the sun may slightly affect the quality and quantity of the solar rays. Marini thinks that the comet's tail consists of matter derived from the sun's body; if so a comet may deprive the sun of a portion of his vital fluid. Doctor Rush states, that an eclipse of the sun increased the madness of his patients in the cells of the Philadelphia hospital; it is acknowledged that the moon has great action upon the human mind & body, and her light promotes putrefaction more than the sun. Then why may not a comet, (to which the system is not accustomed) produce greater effects? A comet is sometimes heated 2000 times hotter than red-hot iron; his tail 33 millions of miles long; he approaches nearer to the sun than Mercury, yet the distance between the sun and Mercury is only 37 millions of miles, which is only 4 millions of miles greater than the length of the comet's tail which appeared in 1811! This tail would more than reach from the evening and morning star to this earth, and is upwards of 140 times longer than the distance between the earth and the moon. The opinion of Sir Isaac Newton, that the vapor which composes this tail may mingle with the atmosphere of the earth and other planets and thereby affect animal and vegetable bodies, is not extravagant or improbable, and if this be the case, we cannot doubt that it produces some effect upon the mind and body—at least upon the weather, and, of course, upon health. Thus comets produce pestilence and war.

3d. Another *modus operandi* of a comet is by exciting terror and anxiety in the minds of the ignorant and superstitious. The effect of the comet of 1712 was ludicrous—a number of persons in London seized all the boats in the Thames, thinking that if the world was set on fire, the water would be the safest place. The South-Sea stock fell 5 per cent and the India 11. The captain of a ship threw his powder magazine into the sea, that the ship might not be blown up, in case she took fire! A miser sunk his iron chest in a well lest it should be melted! There was a great sale of bibles; and so many novels and playing cards were burnt that their price rose 20 per cent. after the panic was over. I he run upon the bank was prodigious! The fire engines were all kept in readiness. Stolen goods were restored. Broken promises of marriage, &c. were fulfilled, and for a whole day the operations of villainy were suspended!!!

But the opinion that a comet may run foul of the earth is not to be ridiculed. The comet of 1680, (said to be upwards of 1000 times larger than the earth) came within 4000 miles north of the earth's track! If the earth had been near that part of its orbit at the time, it would have been attracted from its path and swept along the eccentric career of the comet—if it had come half as near to the earth as the moon is, it would have drawn the ocean out of its bed and deluged the world! (Its tail was 23 millions of miles long.)

Thus have I endeavoured to prove that comets may generate earthquakes, pestilence and war.

AS TROLOGOS.

HANOVER, (N. H.) JULY 14.

There is strong reason to believe, that the Comet, which appeared in 1770, afterwards came in contact with two of the asteroids, which belong to our system, and has become identified with them. L. A.

ST. LOUIS, (M. T.) JUNE 16.

Welsh Indians.—Among the many interesting subjects of inquiry which at present engage the public attention we are pleased to see it once more directed to discover the remnant of an interesting emigration. The idea may appear fanciful to many and has been much ridiculed, but still we entertain flattering hopes of the existence of a race of men descended from the ancient Welsh emigrants. It is a fact well established in history and we conceive beyond doubt, that in 1169 and 1170, Prince Madocah Owain Gwynedd, emigrated from North Wales, taking with him, as is said 323 persons in 10 ships. The present inquiry originated with the Cymreigdon Society of London.—They adopted resolutions and proceedings on the subject, and they state the departure of Madoc and his landing on the coast of America, as facts well known and undoubted; they also state that the Welsh or White Indians, as they are sometimes called, are spoken of by the following authors and writers, among others, viz:—The Rev. Morgan Jones, of Wales, who said, that he had been amongst them four months in 1660, during which he preached to them; the Rev. W. Wynne, in 1696; Wm. Penn, in 1700; the Rev. Theophilus Evans of St. Davids, Brecknockshire, in 1740; John Filson of Kentucky, in 1783; the Rev. Dr. Williams of Sydenham, in 1791; the Rev. John Hockewalder, a Dutch Moravian Missionary, in 1792; William Owen Plough, Esq. in 1798; John Roberts, of Howarden, Flint city, who saw one of the Welsh Indians in Washington City, in 1801; Mr. Childs of Jessamine city, (Ky.) who relates the account of Morris Griffiths, who had been amongst them 8 months in 1804. The society suggest that the present descendants of the emigrants are seated on the southern branches of the Missouri & are called Paducas or Padoucad, which they imagine to be derived from Madoc, by a casual change in the Welsh language.—They likewise add that several Welshmen from time to time have seen and conversed with them in the Welsh language and others of different nations who have seen them, say they bear a great resemblance to the neighboring Indians, except in their colour, countenance and morality.—In addition to what the Cymreigdon Society have said, there has lately appeared in the papers, a letter from O. Williams, a Welshman, and a merchant at Fells Point, Baltimore, in which he states, that he has known the people, that in 1817 he visited their settlement on the Paduca River. That he conversed with them in the Welsh language.—It will be recollected by many of the old inhabitants, that John Thomas Evans a Welshman, was in this country, in search of these Welsh Indians, in 1795. In the year 1796 he proceeded from St. Louis up the Missouri, in company with James Mackay, Esq. and examined all the

country along the Missouri as far as Mandan villages, without success and then gave up his design as fruitless, and returned to St. Louis after an absence of two years. But the writers of that day, and indeed all who were conversant with the accounts that have been given on the subject, regretted that Evans abandoned his search so soon. The location of the Welsh Indians, or White Indians as they are sometimes called, has always been said to be about 2000 miles from the confluence of the Missouri, about 300 miles farther than Evans went, and that it generally took 15 or 20 days longer to descend the Missouri than he took. About 80 notices have been collected and given of their location in that place. Among others, Mr. Benjamin Jones, living on the Vivonogahela, near Pittsburg, related, that a friend or neighbour of his, saw two Indians, at a place about 60 miles from the confluence of the Missouri, who spoke a language unknown to all who knew him until a Welshman entered, who understood them perfectly. These Indians resided about 200 miles from the mouth of the Missouri, near its head waters. J. D. Chisholm, who has lived for many years among different Indian tribes, has also stated that he had heard of the Welsh or White Indians, living above 2000 miles up the Missouri, and he represented the other Indians as being in a continued state of hostility with them. Chisholm also gave an account of their manners, which bears strong marks of civilization, and he related an instance of an Indian, who conversed with a Moses Shelby, of Davisown, on Cumberland river, in the Welsh language. All the accounts locate these Welsh or White Indians at a distance of at least 2000 miles up the Missouri, and on some of its head waters or branches, which is about 300 miles further than Evans and Mackay went. The evidence, therefore, derived from their fruitless search, must be considered inconclusive. The numerous testimonies of history to Madoc's emigration to America, and the more numerous accounts of the location of these persons, (Indians as they are called) whose manners, habits, and appearance strongly resemble those of the whites, and the recurrence of that still stronger proof viz: conversation in the Welsh language with Indians all tend to confirm the belief that the remnant of these interesting emigrants still exist somewhere. Their particular location is a matter of much doubt and uncertainty, notwithstanding the numerous testimonies to their location in a particular place. But certainly no plan could be devised, so well adapted to their discovery, as the present one foot. Messrs. Roberts and Parry are Welshmen themselves, and all the interest on the subject, speak the languages both of North and South Wales, are persevering, and industrious, and will continue their search as long as a probability of a discovery exists.

The object is an interesting one, and it well deserves, and we sincerely hope will be crowned with complete success. [Gaz.]

From the London Quarterly Journal.

George Bidder and Zerah Colburn.

George Bidder of Morton, who possesses such ready and surprising powers of calculating, is at present in London. It is perhaps not generally known, that he asserts the ability of communicating his method to others, and of enabling them to perform the same things as myself.—Zerah Colburn has also made the same statement; and from the development of part of his method, there is no doubt it can be done, but would require excellent memory and probably would not be very generally applicable to use. To mathematicians, engineers, & others, however, it would present many advantages; & it should be known that both have offered to disclose their method, on condition that they be remunerated in a respectable manner.

BLANAS.