

increased. The vapours when they are thus diluted, rarefied and diffused through all the celestial regions, may probably by little and little, by means of their own gravity, be attracted down to the passing planets, and become intermingled with their atmospheres.

That for the conservation of the water and moisture of the planets, comets seem absolutely requisite, from whose condensed vapours and exhalations, all that moisture, which is spent in the process of vegetation and putrefaction and turned into dry earth, &c. may be re-supplied, and recruited.

For all vegetables grow and increase wholly from fluids, and the greater part, is turned by putrefaction into earth again, an earthy slime being perpetually precipitated to the bottom of putrefying liquors. Hence the quantity of dry earth must continually increase, and the moisture of the globe decrease, and at last be quite evaporated, if it has not a continual supply from some part or other of the universe.

And it is reasonable to suppose that the spirit which makes the fires, subtilst and the best part of our air, and which is absolutely requisite for the life and being of things, comes principally from comets. So far then from viewing comets with any apprehensions of dread, we ought to consider them as the harbingers of the merciful dispensation of providence towards us. Although comets are only successive in appearance, they are permanent in reality, and perpetually renewing and imparting, that essential requisite, perhaps so important to our vital existence.

The tails of comets are supposed to have a great affinity to the zodiacal light, and to the aurora borealis, and that the common cause of them all, is the action of the sun's light on the atmosphere of the comets, of itself, and of the earth. That the impulse of the rays of light, on the atmosphere of comets, may drive some of the finer particles of that atmosphere, far beyond its limits, and that this force or impulse, combined with that of gravitation, towards the comet, would produce a tail, which would always be in opposition to the sun, if the comet did not move. But the motion of the comet in its orbit, and about an axis, must vary the position and figure of the tail, giving it a curvature, and a deviation from a line drawn from the centre of the sun, to that of the comet; and that this deviation of the tail, will be greater as the orbit of the comet has the greater curvature, and as the motion of the comet is more rapid. It may even happen that the velocity of the comet, in its perihelion, may be so great, that the force of the sun's rays may produce a new tail, before the old one can follow, in which case the comet might have two or more tails.

The possibility of this is confirmed by the comet of 1744, which was observed to have several tails while it was in its perihelion. The attractive qualities in planets and comets before mentioned, although apparently contradictory, seem to exist, or how are we to reconcile and explain such opposite effects, from one and the same cause; for attraction, if the repulsive qualities are admitted, has a tendency to obviate many things in themselves inexplicable. That such ideas may, perhaps, not have numerous advocates, does not satisfactorily prove the non-existence of those contrary qualities; however, we find no difficulty in believing the theory of positive and negative electricity, and experience justifies the belief. Much has been said and admitted on the subject of attraction, gravitation, projectile, centrifugal and centripetal forces; but how are we satisfactorily to explain the immense attractive power of the sun, that at the amazing distance of eleven thousand two millions of miles, attracts so heavy and dense a body as a comet, so that in its approach to the sun, its velocity is increased according to the square of its distance from the sun; and that in or near its perihelion, it flies at such an astonishing velocity, as almost to stagger credulity—say 880 thousand miles per hour.† It seems

reasonable in the common conception of things, that the vast attractive power of the sun, if it does attract from such vast regions, (of which there remains but little doubt) would attract and draw the comets, in particular, to its own body, by its centripetal force, never more to part, and the comet would then become a part of the sun. That not being the case, is evident, for all comets, when attracted within, or near a certain distance of the atmosphere of the sun, fly off into infinite space; which probably may depend on the materials composing the comet. It is then not irrational, to suppose, that they are repulsed, for the purpose of performing again the revolutions, prescribed by that unerring first cause, who made and gave laws to the universe. The repulsive qualities of the sun may depend on a certain density of materials, contained in the comet, which may be acted upon, by that heat or light, which produces such extensive atmospheres, around the comets, and the matter in the sun, may contribute largely towards it. Some comets approach very near the sun, when in their perihelion, while others, perhaps possessing less of this quality, what ever it may be, are kept at an awful distance. No doubt can be entertained but that our system is governed by laws immutable, for it is impossible that the result of chance, however fortuitous, could have produced, or have compelled, stubborn crude materials, to arrange themselves in such beautiful and exquisite order.

The magnitude of comets, have not been satisfactorily noticed, they are generally supposed to be much larger than our moon and some of them equal to some of the primary planets. Helvelius made the diameter of the comet of 1652, to that of the earth as 52 to 100. The atmosphere of comets, is ten, or fifteen times as great as that of the nucleus, the former in the comet of 1682 was measured by Flamstead: it was found to be two minutes, but the diameter of the nucleus only eleven seconds. The diameter of that of 1744, when at that distance of the sun from us, measured about one minute, therefore its diameter must be about three times the diameter of the earth; at another time, the diameter of its nucleus was nearly equal to that of Jupiter.

If the sun, the planets, and the comets, are all inhabited, (and there is no good reason to doubt it,) and all the fixed stars be suns, (which can hardly be doubted,) their immense distance, would exclude them from our view, if their light, transmitted to us, was not of the solar kind. The analogy may also be proved very satisfactorily; the sun revolves on its axis, so does the star Algol, so does Lyrae, Cephei, Antiope, Ceta, and many more—probably all. Again, our sun has spots, so has the star Algol, and so have those already mentioned, and probably every star in the heavens. On our sun these spots are changeable, so they are on the star Ceti, as is evident from the irregularity of its changeable lustre. While their general periods continue unalterable, some of their revolutions or rotations on their own axes, are shorter and some are longer than our sun. As to the number of fixed stars, they may be considered innumerable. Dr. Herschel reckoned in a space, eight degrees in length and three in breadth, 44,000 stars. On the 22d of August 1792, he found no less than 258,000 stars passed through the field of view of his Telescope in 41 minutes of time. The greater perfection Telescopes are brought to, the more stars are discovered. Now, considering those stars to be suns, and should their size equal our sun which is 1,384,462 times larger than the earth, and that those suns, have their planets, and comets all inhabited, what a vast field opens itself to view for animated nature.

If it were possible for the utmost stretch of the human imagination, to conceive any idea adequate to such prodigious, stupendous, and magnificent works of creation—innumerable worlds and systems all in rapid motion, each pursuing the separate paths prescribed to them, with harmony and precision, such ideas must have a powerful tendency by contemplation, to exalt our minds above the limited prejudices of superstition, with a pleasing and certain conviction of the immutability of a supreme all seeing Creator, and with an indescribable satisfaction, we should join a sublime author who says, "The universe is the work of infinite power, prompted by infinite goodness, having an infinite space to exert it-

self in, so that our imaginations can set no bounds to it." Of that which is finite, to that which is infinite, there is no proportion; neither can that which is immeasurable be contained within the limits of space, or be defined by human calculation. We also might join the above author with solemn fervency when he says, "How great, how wise, how good, must he be, who made and governs the whole."

Extract of a letter from the Cape of Good Hope, dated Cape Town, May 5. "The Caffres have broken out, and a very serious war is carried on at present on the borders. It is said that the Savages are to the amount of 50,000; and a detachment of 6,000 attacked Graham's town on Saturday week about 12 o'clock in the day, but were repulsed, and 150 left dead on the field. They carried off 300 wounded. Orders have been issued in every district of the colony, for the young boors to enrol themselves to oppose the enemy. The settlers are in a bad state, as the Caffres have stolen all their cattle.

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"We have much talk here of the war accounts from Gibraltar respecting the Spanish expedition from Cadiz. God forbid we should have any fear of them.

"Republican principles are very popular here; and young as this country is in financial concerns, they only owe one million and a half of dollars. Let them have only ten years more, and they will give an example to the world of what a people can do in spite of every prejudice, and in spite of internal enemies when without foreign aid.

"Our American commerce to Buenos Ayres is of no value. British imports have been very great; the markets extensively depressed and no spirit of spe-

ulation. Our shops are all filled with active young Creoles, who are getting well forward in the world. Produce scarce—prices high. Ox hides \$2 to \$4 rials—sheep wool 18."

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FOREIGN.

PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 2.

By the arrival of the Fanny, we have accounts from Cadiz to the 28th August, at which time it was not known that the Florida Treaty was ratified by King Ferdinand. The six months allowed for its ratification by the Spanish government, it will be recollected expired on the 26th of August. It was very sickly at Cadiz when the Fanny sailed.

Letters from Cadiz dated the 28th of August, represent that the yellow fever had broken out at Islay, a large town about 8 miles from Cadiz and that apprehensions were entertained of its reaching Cadiz. The inhabitants were generally removing, and all business was at a stand. Numerous bodies of troops were in the neighborhood of Cadiz and it was supposed they would be embarked from some other point. Nothing is said of the Treaty in these letters.

Other letters from Cadiz state, that the merchants of that place were debarred making shipments in American vessels, on account of the uncertainty of the Treaty being ratified.

Extract of a letter from the Cape of Good Hope, dated Cape Town, May 5.

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and general knowledge of it. Major-Long, Major O'Fallon, and Lieut. Graham, proceeded in the Engineer.

Col. Atkinson, commander of the expedition for the Yellow Stone, left Frankling on the 13th inst. for Fort Osage, and from thence would proceed immediately for the Council Bluffs.

Col. Chambers, and the troops under his command, still remain at Fort Osage.

The steam boat Expedition, with provisions, troops, &c. was within 20 miles of Fort Osage on the 10th inst. Of the three steam boats belonging to Col. Johnson, that have ascended the Missouri, the Expedition, either from her construction, or other causes appears to have been the most fortunate.

The Johnson (another of the steam boats) was on Monday last 16th inst. near the mouth of Grand river, on a sand bar, her rudder broke; and it was supposed that a part, if not the whole, of her cargo would have to be taken up by keel boats.

The Jefferson steam boat, which was mentioned in our last as having been lying about 30 miles below Franklin, for some time past, is unable to proceed any higher up the Missouri, and has been abandoned. Her cargo is to be taken up in keel boats.

From a series of astronomical and other observations, taken at Franklin, on board of the United States' steam boat Western Engineer, the following deductions have been made:

Latitude, 38 degrees 57 minutes 9 seconds N. Longitude, 92 degrees 53 minutes 36 seconds W. From Greenwhich. Do. 15 degrees 58 minutes 6 second W. from Washington city. Magnetic variation, 11 degrees 42 minutes 5 second E. Magnetic dip, 69 degrees 25 minutes.

Rise and fall of the River Missouri, at Camp Belle-Fontaine, in 1803.

From the Daily Report of the officer of the guard, under the orders of General (then Colonel) Bissel, commanding the post, Belle-Fontaine is four miles from the mouth of the Missouri.

	RISE.	FALL.
	Feet In.	Feet In.
Feb. 6 to 23.	9 4	
24 to March 5.		1 10
March 6 to 15.	4 6	
16 to 30.		3 1
31 to April 2.	1 10	
April 3 to 8.		1 7
9 to 14.	2 6	
15 to 30.		2
May 1 to 14.		1 5
15 to 17.	4	
18 and 19.		4
20 to 22.	2 2	
23 to 25.		1 8
26 to 28.	6	
29 to 30.		4
June 1 to 3.	1 8	
4 to 7.		1 8
8 to 16.	11 2	
17 to July 2.		7 5
July 3 to 11.	3 7	
12 to 20.		2 1
21 to 31.	1 6	
Aug. 1 to 12.		2 8
12 to 17.	5 1	
Total rise from Feb. 6		
to August 17.	47 10	25 3
Fall during same time	25	