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THE TRANSIT OF HALLEY'S COMET.

AN EXPERT ASTRONOMER'S STATEMENT OF WHAT WE MAY EXPECT FROM THE VISIT OF THIS WONDERFUL, AWE INSPIRING CELESTIAL MONSTER TO OUR SKIES.

The Earth Will not Collide With its Head, but Will Plunge Harmlessly Through Its Tail--Peculiar Radiance That May be Seen in The Heavens.

By FREDERIC CAMPBELL, Sc. D., (President of department of astronomy, Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.)

The visit of Halley's comet to our skies is an event for which we have been waiting for thirty-seven years and more, for in 1873, when it had been retreating into the depths of space ever since its last preceding appearance in 1835, it was at last brought up "with a round turn" by the sun's attraction and compelled to start back.

While every mile of the way in withdrawing from the sun's light and heat it had equally withdrawn from its restraining power, yet even 500,000,000 miles beyond our farthest known planet that power was still real, though immensely reduced, and momentum so that it was forced to turn back. It did it, like a runaway child, reluctantly, and, although with each mile of its return it has felt increase of attraction in the sun and has thus been obliged to quicken its pace steadily, it has nevertheless refused to rush straight to the sun's bosom. Still retaining a fragment of the original momentum with which it came into our system ages ago--no one knows from where--it has persistently and continually

almost as eagerly rushing toward the comet, its speed being about 1,150 miles a minute. And though the two, on the 19th of April, were still 95,000,000 miles apart, the combined movement of earth and comet has been steadily filling up the great gap at the rate of forty-three miles per second, and the great events that are to follow the middle of May are consequently at hand.

That there will be no collision is as evident as that an elevated train may safely cross a surface road above or a subway beneath. When the comet crossed the earth's path early in March--for it is even now within our orbit--it was 15,000,000 miles above us, and when it will pass out beyond the same, May 26, it will be 6,000,000 miles below us. Professor W. H. Pickering estimates that on the 18th of May we shall be 14,300,000 miles distant from the comet. From these figures a million or two may be clipped in the day or two following. The brilliancy, too, of the comet will be greatest on the 19th, no less than 6,300 times what it was when discovered by Professor Wolf.

But the 18th of May is the great day--the day of the transit and the day of the earth's plunge through the comet's tail. Nothing can transit the face of

sun's entire face. It would therefore seem that a remarkable phenomenon is at hand, very closely approaching an eclipse in character.

Mass of Meteorites In Its Head.

So it would be if the comet's head were solid, like the moon; but, though we are convinced that there is solid matter in it, being probably made up of a mass of meteorites held together by their mutual attraction, still we know it to be much more largely gaseous in its nature and shall have to wait and see whether it be sufficiently opaque to darken the sun or whether it is so transparent that the sun can shine right through it as though a thin cloud.

With a telescope having an object glass of fifteen inches in diameter a body of seventy miles in diameter at the distance of the comet would show black against the sun, and with higher power one of ten miles diameter would do the same. But it may be that those most favorably situated geographically will see just nothing at all. In all history there is but one recorded case of a comet transiting the sun's face, that of the great comet of 1882. When it reached the sun it disappeared entirely. And it seems likely, therefore, that in the present instance the sun will be darkened but little, if at all. Yet all comets are not alike, and some spectacle altogether unsuspected may present itself to the admiring gaze of all beholders.

Earth, comet and sun being in one perfectly straight line at the time of transit, were the comet's tail straight the earth would be involved in it at the same moment since it sweeps back from the sun into space, no matter which way the comet is traveling. But the tail is curved so that it will come sweeping upon the earth possibly a few hours later, and by that time the relations of the two bodies will have changed by reason of their swift passing that we shall not pass through the middle of the tail, where it would measure at least 1,000,000 miles across, but through a portion where a smaller distance must be traversed in order to make our exit.

The Question of Danger.

The first question is, of course, that of danger. Will the earth and all things therein be destroyed, as the 20,000 inhabitants of St. Pierre were laid low in three minutes by the poisonous fumes of Mount Pelee? Our answer is that if the earth should graze the comet's head possibly its vapors would so fill our atmosphere that nothing could thereafter live. But at a point in the tail 14,000,000 miles from that head we are perfectly safe, as we should be indeed half or one-fourth that distance. The comet's tail is literally next to nothing. The little that it is will not affect our atmosphere in any unpleasant or harmful way. There is as much danger in a searchlight or a rainbow and infinitely more in the fumes of the chimneys and automobiles of a city. It is true that it is of a gaseous nature, but so extremely thin that the faintest stars can be seen through a million miles of its volume.

The next question pertains to the spectacle. If the transit may prove invisible, will the plunge through the tail prove equally so? It may, for in 1819 the earth went through a comet's tail without any one knowing it, and in 1861 it did the same, though it was remembered afterward that a strange aurora-like appearance had been observed at the time, a certain yellowness of sky, which was even thought worthy of record, though its connection with the comet had not been suspected. It is not unlikely that we shall have an experience somewhat like that. In the morning of May 18, before sunrise, the tail is likely to be seen extending from the eastern toward the western horizon. In the evening of the 19th, after sunset, the tail is likely to be seen extending from the western toward the eastern horizon, but late during the night of the 18th the entire heavens are likely to be seen carrying a faint and peculiar radiance, due to the fact that we are immersed hundreds of thousands of miles in the comet's tail. The chief thing to militate against the spectacle will be the moon, which that night is ten days old and will not set till 2:45 in the morning. But inasmuch as the peculiar sky radiance in 1861 was seen even in the daytime we may hope that fair Luna will be good enough, since she is generously granted half the nights of each month, not to spoil the marvels of so extraordinary an occasion as this.

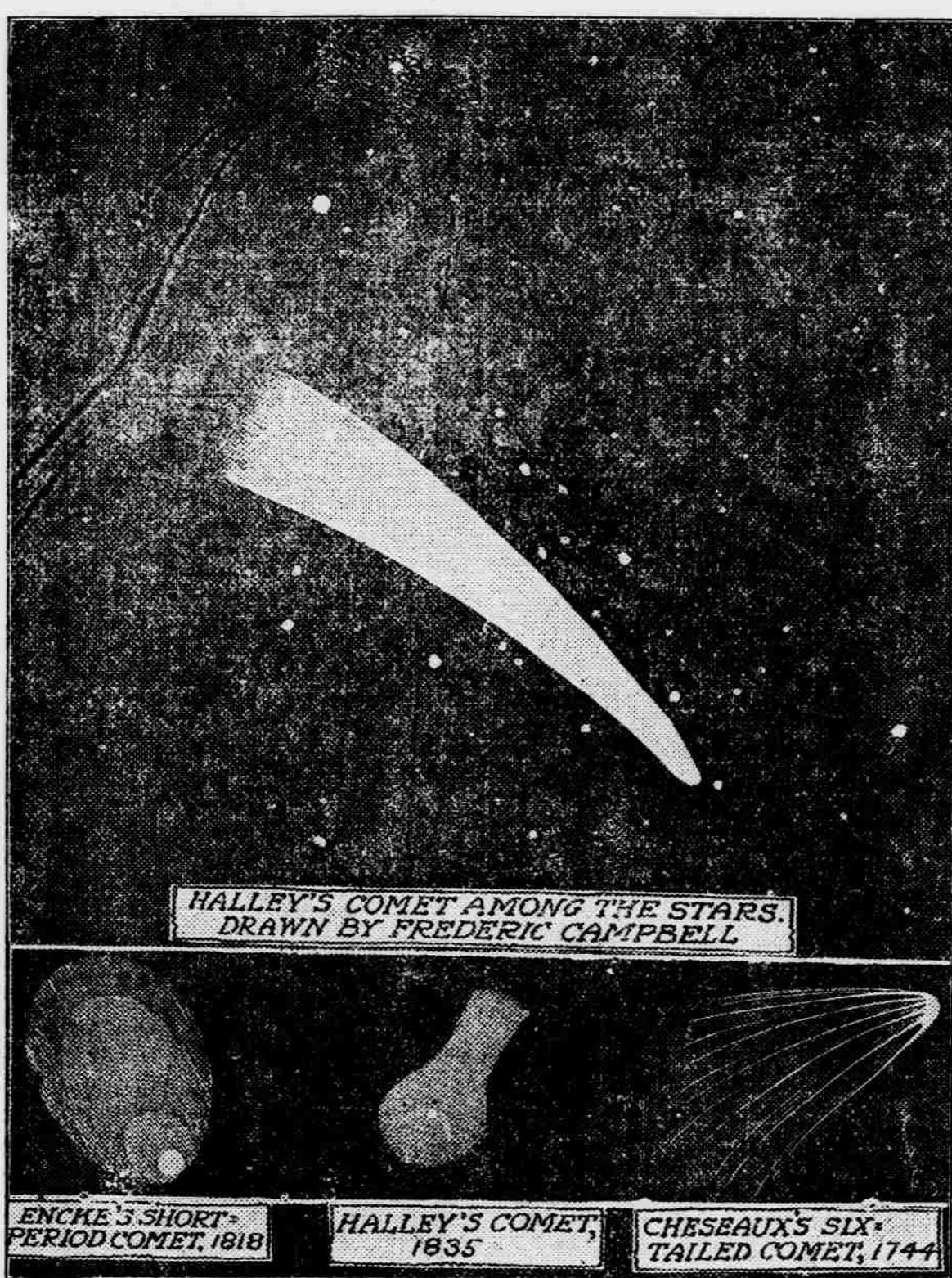
When this great day of the comet has passed it will be seen for some time, night after night, in the western sky after sunset--first at about its largest, then rapidly growing smaller as it retreats into the depths of space and becomes once more invisible, not again to charm the eye, awaken the wonder and stir the awe of mankind until most of us have been long forgotten in our humble graves.

NOVEL MOTORBOAT SHOW.

Craft to Be Exhibited in Water and Under Canvas.

A novel motorboat show and water carnival under the direction of the Motorboat and Water Carnival association will be held on the pier and plaza at West Ninety-eighth street, New York, for one week, beginning on May 21.

The exhibits, many of which have already been arranged for, will be housed on the pier under canvas, and there will be three floats, 100 by 20 feet each, from which exhibitors may demonstrate their boats. There will be several days of racing on the Hudson, in which fast boats from most of the clubs on the river will compete for the prizes offered.



HALLEY'S COMET AMONG THE STARS. DRAWN BY FREDERIC CAMPBELL.

ENCKE'S SHORT-PERIOD COMET, 1818. HALLEY'S COMET, 1835. CHESBAUX'S SIX-TAILED COMET, 1744.

VIEW OF HALLEY'S COMET IN 1910 AND 1835 AND TWO OTHER CELESTIAL WONDERS.

compounded that force with the force of the sun's attraction, and the result is the beautiful curve of an ellipse.

Now, it is because of faithfully following the elliptical path that the comet will not drop into the sun's fiery depths and go up in a puff of gas. Instead it swings around that body at a safe distance of 54,000,000 miles at the nearest and then proceeds to withdraw into space on the opposite side of the ellipse. It is there that it is going to meet the earth; there that it will pass us, the two bodies going in opposite directions; there that it will come the nearest; there that it will appear the largest; there that it will shine the brightest; there that its head will transit the face of the sun; there that the earth will plunge headlong through its tail. We are therefore coming to the most important days of this cometary visit.

So well had the great astronomer royal, Sir Edmund Halley, and others learned the ways of this sky monster that Professor Max Wolf of Heidelberg, Germany, knew to just what quarter of the heavens to open his camera for the long exposure of Sept 11 last. When, after hours of waiting he again closed it and went into the dark room and developed his plate he knew that he had rediscovered Halley's comet, and so he telegraphed to all the principal observatories of the world. In a few days the astronomers saw it in their powerful glasses, and they have been following it ever since with an interval of a few weeks excepted, when it passed the sun the last of March and removed from the evening to the morning sky.

"Will Not Collide With the Earth."

On the 19th of April the comet passed "perihelion," nearest the sun, was going its swiftest, 1,573 miles a minute, and determinedly rounding the curve to push on toward the earth, as if to drive straight into our orb and end all things for both bodies. At the same time the earth was coming around its curve in the opposite direction and

the moon unless it be a fleeting meteor, for the moon is the nearest celestial body. Only three bodies can transit the face of the sun--namely, the moon, thus causing an eclipse of the sun, and the inner planets Mercury and Venus. The last transit of Mercury occurred in November, 1907. The last transit of Venus was observed Dec. 6, 1882, and the next will be seen June 8, 2004, this entire century passing without that most interesting and significant phenomenon. But the head of the comet will transit the face of the sun on the 18th of May.

Where the Transit May Be Seen.

This is made possible by a remarkable combination of circumstances. For four months the comet has been north of the sun. On the very day that it passes it in going back from the morning to the evening sky it also passes south of the sun. This brings it directly across the sun's face. Professor See says that this will take place between 7 p. m. and 1 a. m., eastern time. Professor Pickering names 9 p. m., eastern time, as the hour. "Popular Astronomy" says that 11:19 p. m., eastern time, is the exact middle of the transit, but that it lasts in its entirety from 10:50 p. m. to 11:48 p. m. The center of the comet's head will pass about four or five minutes of arc above the center of the sun's disk, the diameter of the entire disk being thirty minutes.

Now, it is manifest that, vastly important as this event is, it will be entirely invisible to a large part of humanity by reason of the sun's being below the horizon at the hour named, France, England, Germany, Italy, Spain and all the eastern part of the United States will then be in the shadow of night. Only on our western borders is there hope that the transit may be witnessed, and in the Hawaiian Islands there is a much closer approach to certainty. Professor Barnard has estimated that the size of the comet's head as seen from the earth will be more than sufficient to cover the

Free Remedy For Weak Bowels

There are two forms of bodily cleanliness, the external and the internal. The one is for your pride in yourself; the other for your life and health. Both are important, but of vastly more importance in the long run is the internal cleanliness.

This is one point that all should watch about their body--the cleanliness of the bowels. Keep them clean and free from obstructions. To do this you must have one or two movements of the bowels each twenty-four hours. If your system does not do this naturally, in the process of eating and drinking, then you must obtain aid of some kind. After finding out that cathartics, salts and such things relieve you for a day, but bind you up worse than ever the next day, then try a simpler and more natural remedy like Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin.

For the skeptical the best way to begin is to send your druggist an address to Dr. Caldwell for a free sample bottle. Use it as directed and if it convinces you that a brief continuance of its use will relieve you permanently--that it will train the stomach and bowel muscles to again work naturally at certain hours--then buy it of your druggist at fifty cents and one dollar a bottle, just as so many others are doing. They began with a sample bottle, they bought a fifty cent bottle, and now fully convinced of its merits, they buy the one dollar family size. All the members of the family can use it down to the very youngest.

A brief use of this grand laxative tonic will cure constipation in its worst form, indigestion, liver trouble, sick headache, sour stomach and such ailments and keep you in continuous good health at a very small cost. Such is the experience of many families. Mrs. Oscar Fleener, Unionville, Ind., J. F. Daniel, Saron, Tex., and hundreds of others that could be named.

Dr. Caldwell personally will be pleased to give you any medical advice you may desire for yourself or family pertaining to the stomach, liver or bowels absolutely free of charge. Explain your case in a letter and he will reply to you in detail. For the free sample simply send your name and address on a postal card or otherwise. For either request the doctor's address is Dr. W. B. Caldwell, R. 509 Caldwell Building, Monticello, Ill.

For Sale by CREWILLO DRUG CO.

SALE OF HOUSES AND LOT. Under and by virtue of power conferred upon me by the last will and testament of Woodson Reavis, deceased, wherein he directed the sale of the following described houses and lots and appointed me executor, I shall, on

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH, 1910,

sell to the highest bidder for cash at the Court House door in Oxford, at 12 o'clock noon, the following described lot: In town of Oxford, County of Granville, State of North Carolina, on the East Side of New College or Gilligan street, near the old Hundley Foundation, bounded on the North by the lot of J. P. Floyd, on the East by the lot of G. C. Shaw, on the South by the lot of E. T. White and on the west by said street, on which said lot is situated two houses. Will be sold in two lots.

Time of Sale 12 m. Terms cash. W. J. H. BOOHER, Executor of Woodson Reavis, de'd. This May 7th, 1910. Graham and Devin, Attys.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS. THE DIAMOND BRAND. Ladies, Ask your Druggist for Chichester's Diamond Brand Pills in Red and Gold Metallic Boxes, sealed with Blue Ribbon. Take no others. Buy only the Druggist. Ask for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25 years known Best Relief. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

A PLAIN CONTRACT.

Go to J. G. Hall and buy a bottle of Johnson's Chill and Fever Tonic on this plain contract. Buy it with this understanding that it will cure:

- 1st. Fever. 2nd. Chills. 3rd. Bad Colds. 4th. Neuralgia. 5th. Biliousness. 6th. Hemorrhagic Fever. 7th. La Grippe. 8th. Measles. 9th. Typhoid. 10th. Dengue Fever.

Pay 50 cents for a bottle of it with the distinct understanding that if it does not cure you, that your money will be promptly handed back to you.

Make no written statement. Your simple words will do. No questions will be asked. It's the best. Made by The Johnson's Chill and Fever Tonic Co., Savannah, Ga.

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