

# The Coming of Halley's Comet.

In which is shown its Course and Progress.

By FREDERIC CAMPBELL, Sc. D.

**C**OMING from a distance 500,000,000 miles greater than that of the most remote planet, and returning from an absence of 75 years, it now devolves upon us to trace the movements of that great comet, already discovered in our sky, and soon to be seen for months by everyone who has eyes. It is true that the comet's motions are followed only in our immediate vicinity. But the curve which it makes while within our view, proves the curves it must make when beyond, so that we are able to track the monster as if we saw it every day.

We need first to understand the arrangement of the members of the solar system, to which both the comet and the earth belong. At the centre is the sun; round about this body, in concentric paths, revolve eight planets. These, in the order of their distance from the sun, are as follows: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune. Between Mars and Jupiter there is a swarm of little worlds, known as asteroids, not less than 500 in number.

The first four planets named are small. The other four are large; those nearest the sun travel most swiftly; those farthest the most slowly. Mercury is seldom seen, because so close to the sun as usually to be lost in its bright rays. Venus is the largest star in the heavens, and the nearest to the earth. Mars is the world suspected of being inhabited, because of its "canals." Jupiter is our largest planet. Saturn is the wonderful world girdled with rings.

