

grees, and of the ascending node about one hundred and sixty-six degrees. The perihelion distance is about 40,000,000 miles, or a little greater than the mean distance of Mercury from the sun. Its motion is retrograde, so that its apparent motion is from right to left, as seen at this time. The velocity of the comet, when at its perihelion, will be about 150,000 miles per hour. Its tail is at least 6,000,000 miles in length, though there is some difference of opinion as to its dimensions.

Mr. J. R. Hind, the London Astronomer, also states, that this highly brilliant but eccentric luminary will not be visible hereabouts after next week, unless a few daylight observations can be obtained. We must then surrender its charge to the astronomers of the Southern hemisphere, and when their observations are compared with those taken now, it will perhaps be possible to determine its period of revolution. Mr. Hind says, that after it is lost to view here, the comet will traverse the southern extremity of the constellation Sagittarius, and thence pass through Telescopium indus, where it will be found about Christmas, not far from the star α in Pavo. It will remain in the same constellation during January and a part of February, slowly approaching the principal star in Toncon, and indeed, will continue in that part of the heavens until it has nearly completed its next revolution round the sun, and again presents itself to the gaze of another Donati a few hundred years hence. The apparent diameter of the nucleus is about five seconds of arc, and, as the comet is still upwards of 120,000,000 miles from the earth, the real diameter will be rather over 3,000 miles. Taking the apparent length of the tail at five degrees, its true length would appear to be about 15,000 miles. The tail of the comet of 1843 was 90,000,000 miles long, and that of 1811, 132,000,000 miles. All fears of a collision with the planetary bodies have been dissipated by the accurate observations of astronomers. It has been ascertained that comets are transparent bodies of luminous vapor, which take their brightness from the sun; and so far from affecting the planets when they come into their neighborhood, it was shown that a comet entering within the orbit of the moons of Jupiter, was held in suspension for four months, and its course arrested. The speed of comets varies; but their velocity increases considerably as they approach the sun, and their motion grows slower as they recede into space. One comet has been known to travel round the sun at the rate of 312 miles in a second. The distance which they recede from the sun is sometimes enormous, having reached in one instance seventy thousand four hundred millions of miles, requiring a period of nearly nine hundred thousand years to travel that distance and back again to the sun.

A local paper remarks the Comet displays a very splendid train, but such is the exceeding rarity of this train that though it interposes between the earth and some of the fixed stars, these stars can be seen through it with the naked eye. Sir John Herschel adopted the theory that the tails of comets are formed by a *repulsive force* in the Sun, which drives off portions of the matter composing the nucleus; and the supposition is advanced that a part of the matter thus repelled may be driven entirely beyond the attractive influence of the nucleus, and be irrecoverably lost. Herschel even thinks it possible, on this theory, to account for the separation of Biela's comet into two distinct objects.

VI. COMETS NOW VISIBLE.

The Three Comets now visible rise and set as follows:—

Donati's—In the constellation Ursa Major—

Rises—3h. 16m. A.M., N.E. by North.

Sets—8h. 44m. P.M., N.W. by North.

Encke's—In the constellation Cancer—

Rises—1h. 07m. A.M., North-east.

Sets—5h. 17m. P.M., North-west.

Tuttle's—In the constellation Perseus. This Comet has just come within the circle of perpetual apparition, and therefore does not set to us. It is on the meridian, *above* the Pole, at 3h. 24m. in the morning.

VII. Miscellaneous.

1. ON THE LATE SIR WILLIAM PEEL.

Our England hath no need to raise
The Ghosts of Glories gone;
Such heroes dying in our days
Still toss the live torch on.
Brave blood as bright as crimson gleams,
Still burns as goodly zeal;
The old heroic radiance beams
In men like William Peel.
Oh, he was just a warrior for
A weary working day!

So kind in peace, so stern in war,
He walk'd our English way,
With beautiful bravery clothed on,
And such high moral grace;
A light of rare soul armour shone
Out of his noble face.

How like a Battle brand, red-hot,
His spirit grew, and glowed,
When in his swift war Chariot
The avenger rose and rode!
His sailors loved him so on deck,
So cheery was his call,
They leapt on land, and in his wake
Followed him, Guns and all.

Sleep, Sailor darling, leal and brave,
With our dead Soldiers sleep!
That so the land you lived to save,
You shall have died to keep.
You might have wished the dear Sea-blue
To have folded round your breast
But God had other work for you,
And other place of rest.

We tried to reach you with our wreath
When living, but, laid low,
You grow so grand! and after death
The dreaminess deepens so!
To have gone so soon, so loved to have died,
So young to wear that crown,
We think, but with such thrills of pride
As shake the last tears down.

God rest you, gallant William Peel,
With those whom England leaves
Scattered,—as still she plies her steel,—
But God gleams up in sheaves.
We'll tell the tale on land, on board,
Till Boys shall feel as Men,
And forests of hands clutch at this sword
Death gives us back again.

2. TOMB OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

At length, after nearly six years' indecision and delay, the resting place of the remains of the great Duke of Wellington in our metropolitan cathedral has been completed, and the public are admitted to view the same. On the day of the funeral, it will be recollected, the coffin of the duke was temporarily placed upon the sarcophagus of Nelson, in the crypt, immediately under the centre of the dome of the cathedral. Here the remains rested for two years, when it was resolved to remove them into another compartment of the crypt about 40 feet eastward. Meanwhile Mr. Penrose, the conservator of the cathedral undertook to prepare for the reception of the coffin a suitable sarcophagus. The material was sought upon the continent, but in vain; and at length it was determined to appropriate for the purpose a huge porphyry boulder, which had lain for ages upon the Treffray estate, at Luxalyan, in Cornwall. Here, in the field whereon it was found, the intensely hard material was cut into the form of a sarcophagus, and polished by steam power, and, being completed, was conveyed to the cathedral, to be deposited in the centre of the cryptal chamber already mentioned. The color is rich reddish brown, with yellowish markings; and the sarcophagus is placed upon a base of light granite, each of the four corners being sculptured with a lion's head. On one side of the sarcophagus is inscribed, "Arthur, Duke of Wellington," and upon the opposite side, "Born May 1, 1769, Died Sept. 14, 1852," and at each end, and upon a boss, is an heraldic cross, the outlines of which, as well as those of the inscription, are in gold, which has a rich effect. In each angle of the chamber is a candelabrum of highly polished red granite, from which rise jets of gas to light the apartment. The floor is laid with Minton's tiles, and the appearance of the tomb and the sepulchral chamber, if not sumptuous, is grand and massive. The tomb is stated to have cost £1,100. As the visitor enters the chamber, he sees in the distance the sarcophagus containing the remains of Nelson; and we need scarcely add, that this juxtaposition of the remains of two of England's greatest heroes, is very suggestive.

3. THE FALL OF THE LEAF IN AUTUMN.

There is something truly poetical in our transatlantic name for the autumnal season—THE FALL. It expresses truly the characteristic feature of nature during the mysterious changes that now take place. The "mellow Autumn" immortalized in English poetry fails to convey the idea of gorgeousness which distinguishes the season in this