

NOVA SCOTIA (10) ALMANACK.

DATE. 1836.		RISING. <i>Morning.</i>	SOUTHING. <i>Morning.</i>	SETTING. <i>Evening.</i>
January	11	4h. 21m.	8h. 20m.	0.h 19m.
	15	4 4	7 59	11 54 <i>Mor</i>
	19	3 45	7 37	11 29
	23	3 23	7 14	11 5
	27	3 4	6 50	10 36
	31	2 44	6 26	10 6
February	4	2 21	5 59	9 37
	8	1 59	5 32	9 5
	12	1 30	5 3	8 36

The signification of the word *Comet* has varied as new bodies have appeared, which analogy has led astronomers to include under that name. It was first given as the word denotes to bodies which appeared in the heavens with a train of light, or tail, and this included some of the meteors which belong to our own atmosphere. We now apply the word to those heavenly bodies without the limits of our own atmosphere, which are nebulous in their appearance, and with or without a tail. We may divide all which have been observed into three classes.—1st. Those whose returns have been predicted, and the prediction verified by fact. There are three in number, viz. the celebrated Comet of Halley, observed by him in 1682, which returned according to his conjecture, (for it could then hardly be called any thing more) in 1759, and will appear again this present (1835). The other two are those of Encke and Beila, which perform their revolutions in rather more than three years; the Encke will return also this year, but neither are visible to the naked eye.—2d. Comets whose return have been predicted unsuccessfully.—3d. Comets which have been observed, the predicted return of which are yet to be expected. The most remarkable of these is the one observed by Olbers in 1815, which is confidently expected to return in 1887. Besides there have appeared many comets when neither theory nor observation was in a state sufficiently perfect to enable the observers to say whether they would return or not.

That a Comet is a material body, is proved by the same sort of reasoning which is applied to the planets. First, it either reflects the light of the Sun, or shines by its own light, which of the two has never been distinctly proved; perhaps both suppositions may be true. Matter is always present where light is either emitted or reflected, at least on our globe. Secondly, Comets are found to be acted upon by the laws of gravitation, exactly as all other material bodies are. They are attracted by the Sun, and move in ellipses or other conic sections, and this motion is disturbed by the attraction of the planets, especially of the larger planets, Jupiter and Saturn. These facts being substantiated, we are justified in assuming that comets are material bodies, subject