

A paper on "Thunderstorms" by Associate Birt, of Utica, N.Y., followed, in which he said that it is by electrical agency, that nearly all the phenomena in the material world, especially in the Meteorological world, is made manifest. Thunder storms excited great wonder, but were of very common occurrence. Generally regarded as a manifestation of Divine Agency, a rightly trained mind saw nothing more in a thunder storm than an energetic natural agent at work. The cause was an unequal accumulation of the electric fluid in a mass of cloud and in the earth beneath such clouds.

Mr. Smith read a paper entitled "A Cometary Brotherhood," in which he related the history of Halley's, Pons-Brook's, Olbers-Brook's and the Comets of 1846, 1847 and 1852.*

An invitation to meet at Mr. Smith's on the night of the eclipse closed the meeting.

29TH MONTHLY MEETING.

Eleven associates attended the meeting at the Fraser Institute on the evening of February 3rd, 1888, viz.: President Walter H. Smith, Associates J. C. Weir, W. McNab, C.E., E. W. Beuthner, G. A. Neville, A. J. Pigeon, George Creak, Treasurer Brown and Mesdames W. H. Smith, E. W. Beuthner, and J. Brown. Several visitors were also present.

After routine proceedings, a letter was read from Vice-President Plumadore, of North Carolina, to the effect that the secretaryship of that branch was now filled by Col. R. M. Furman, Editor *Daily Citizen*, Asheville, N.C.

An article from Vice-President Foster on "Planetary Meteorology" was read.

By request, Mr. Smith gave some "Practical Hints to Amateur Telescopists," specially applicable to observations on the Planet Saturn, then favorably situated for observing. He bade amateurs not to expect to see too much, but to remember that the planet was nearly 900,000,000 miles away. It was also useless to waste time trying to get a telescope steady on a windy night. He also recommended resting the eyes frequently by closing them, five minutes of good observation being better than a whole evening spent in straining

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