

Altogether, as a spectacle, Halley's Comet has been a feebler one than most people expected, but this has been chiefly owing to our long twilight at this season in northern latitudes. Nearer the equator the view, perhaps, has been better than ours. But the sensational balderdash of the daily newspapers had aroused undue expectations. And it is a pity that wild statements regarding the loss of its tail in March, the cyanogen gas, and the curvature of the tail, etc., should get credence in our reputable scientific journals like the *Scientific American* and be placed on record for the future. When it was on the other side of the sun, in March and during the early part of April, its tail may have been inappreciable to observers with telescopes, being turned directly from the sun and from ourselves. And at no time have I observed the slightest curvature in its tail, such as has been imagined by some, but not witnessed by anyone. Light passing along the full length of the tail say of 20,000,000 miles would traverse the entire course in something less than two minutes, and during that short time the distance travelled by the head of the comet would be too inappreciable to cause any curvature to be visible to the eye.

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