

Guelph Evening Mercury

VOL. VII. NO. 306

GUELPH, ONT., CANADA, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 28 1874.

PRICE TWO CENTS

Business Cards.

GUTHRIE, WATT & CUTTEN,
Barristers, Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors
in Chancery, Guelph, Ontario.
D. GUTHRIE, J. WATT, W. H. CUTTEN
Guelph, March 1, 1871. dw

A. H. MACDONALD,
BARRISTER AT LAW.
Office—Corner of Wyndham and Quebec
Streets, Guelph, Ont. d&wt
Guelph, June 3, 1874.

LEMON, PETERSON & McLEAN,
Barristers and Attorneys at Law,
Solicitors in Chancery,
Conveyancers and Notaries Public.
Office—Brownlow's New Buildings, near
the Registry Office.
A. LEMON, H. W. PETERSON,
K. MACLEAN, County Crown Atty

DUNBAR, MERRITT & BISCOE
Barristers and Attorneys at Law
Solicitors in Chancery, etc.
Office—Over Harvey's Drug Store.
A. DUNBAR, W. M. MERRITT, F. BISCOE,
Guelph, Oct. 7, 1873. dw

**STEPHEN BOULT, Architect, Con-
tractor and Builder, Planning Mill, and
every kind of Joiner's Work prepared for the
trade and the public. The Factory is on
Green Street, Guelph.**

WILLIAM J. PATERSON,
Official Assignee for the County
of Wellington.
Office—Opposite Town Hall, Guelph, dw

OLIVER & McKINNON,
Barristers, Attorneys at Law, Solicitors
in Chancery, Conveyancers, Notaries
Public, etc.
Office—Corner of Wyndham and Quebec
Streets, Guelph, Ont. d&wt
A. OLIVER, dw A. M. McKINNON.

F. STURDY,
House, Sign, & Ornamental Painter
GRAINER AND PAPER-HANGER.
Shop next to the Wellington Hotel, Wynd
ham Street, Guelph. d&wt

D. COLLINGE,
M.D., Edinburgh, and M.R.C.S., England,
having assisted Dr. Clarke in his Practice
during the last twelve months, has now
commenced Practice on his own account at
the house formerly occupied by Dr. Herod,
Quebec Street East, Guelph. d&wt
Guelph, May 27, 1874.

IRON CASTINGS,
Of all kinds, made to order at
CROWE'S IRON WORKS,
Norfolk Street, Guelph.
154w JOHN CROWE Proprietor

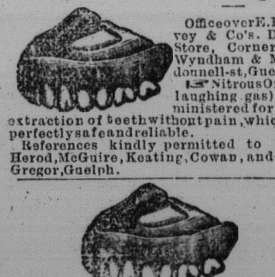
M. P. DELOUCHE
WIRE WORKER,
Pearl Street, off King Street. Every de-
scription of wire work made to order at
the lowest terms. Any orders left at W. H. Mar-
cot's seed store, Market Square, or at R.
Murray's fruit depot, Wyndham Street, will
be thankfully received and promptly at-
tended to. Terms strictly cash. dw
Guelph, June 13, 1874.

RICE'S
BILLIARD HALL,
In the Queen's Hotel, Guelph, opposite
the Market.
The room has just been refitted in splen-
did style, for tables reduced in size, and
everything done to make it a first-class
Billiard Hall. dw
Guelph, Nov. 3rd, 1873.

DOMINION SALOON
AND
RESTAURANT,
Opposite the Market, Guelph.
The subscriber begs to notify his friends
and the public that he is proprietor of
the above saloon and hopes by keeping none
but first-class liquors and cigars to receive a
share of public patronage. First-class
oysters in their season. First-class
accommodation for supper parties.
Guelph, April 7, 1874. dw
M. DEADY, Proprietor.

MONEY TO LEND,
In sums to suit borrowers. No solicitor
fees or commission charged.
Apply direct to the undersigned.
GUTHRIE, WATT & CUTTEN,
April 16, 1874. dw
Guelph.

W. M. FOSTER, D.D.S.,
Surgeon Dentist, Guelph.
Office—Over E. Harvey
& Co's Drug
Store, Corner of
Wyndham & Mac-
donnell Sts, Guelph.
Nitrogen Oxide
laughing gas ad-
ministered for the
extraction of teeth without pain, which is
perfectly safe and reliable.
References kindly permitted to Dr.
Herod, McGuire, Keating, Cowan, and Mc-
Gregor, Guelph.



R. Campbell, L.D.S.
Having recovered from his recent illness, is
again prepared to attend to the wants of all
who may require his services.
Office at the old stand, Wyndham street,
Guelph.

PAKER'S HOTEL,
—DIRECTLY—
OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.
First-class accommodation for travellers.
Complimentary stabling and an attentive
hostler.
The best Liquors and Cigars at the bar.
No just little up a room water Oya-
ers will be served up at all hours, in the
most stylish.
223 1/2 in on Coasters and Sardines.

HART & SPIERS,
Conveyancers, Land, Loan, Insurance,
and General Agents, 4 Day's
Block, Guelph.
All business entrusted to us will receive
prompt and strict attention.
Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, Leases, etc. to be
drawn and executed in the most
neatly and accurately prepared.
Money always on hand in sums to suit
borrowers, on mortgages or good personal
security. No delay or extravagant charges.
Our list of Town and Farm Property is
large and varied, and notices in want of real
estate of any kind should call on us before
purchasing elsewhere.
Agents for the Commercial Union Assur-
ance Company of London, England.
HART & SPIERS,
4th St.,
Day's Block, Guelph, Ont.

New Advertisements.

STONE SHOP TO RENT—In the
Town of Guelph, well adapted for any
kind of manufacturing business. Apply at
the Mercury office. 187-dwt

HOUSE TO RENT—A stone cottage
on Queen Street, containing a large
room, with garden attached. Good well of
water, and soft water convenient. For par-
ticulars apply at this office. 58t

WANTED—Cook and two house-
maids wanted for the School of
Agriculture, Guelph. Good wages for expe-
rienced servants. Apply with testimonials to
MRS. PETRIE,
Housekeeper, dw
Guelph, July 24th, 1874.

FARM FOR SALE IN GLENELG—
Lot 12 in the Township of Guelph, 120
Acres, Glenelg Co., Grey, 134 acres, 40
cleared. All well watered.
ROBERT MITCHELL,
Solicitor, Guelph.
Guelph, July 22nd, 1874. wt-dt

DANIELS & BUCHAN,
(Successors to James Barclay.)
Carpenters and Builders,
South of the Drill Shed, Guelph.
Jobbing a specialty. Lumber and Cedar
Posts always on hand.
Guelph, July 27, 1874. dw

JOHN McCREA,
Produce Commission Merchant,
and Insurance Agency.
Office—Bank of Commerce Buildings,
Guelph, July 25th, 1874. dw

CARD OF THANKS.
The subscriber hereby tenders his
grateful acknowledgments to his neighbors,
and citizens of Guelph, who, together with
the energetic members of the Fire Brigade,
worked hard and perseveringly on Sunday
morning, and by their united efforts, valu-
able property was preserved from destruc-
tion by the fiery element which at one time
seemed to struggle for mastery.
JOHN SOLE, dit
Guelph, July 28th, 1874.

NO BUILDERS.
Sealed Tenders will be received by the
undersigned on behalf of the Guelph Gas
Company, till FRIDAY, the 31st inst., at 6
p.m. for all the work necessary in the
erection of Purifying, Governor and Boiler
House.
Plans and specifications can be seen on
application to the manager at the Gas
Works.
The Directors do not bind themselves to
accept the lowest or any tender.
J. C. McLAGAN, Secy.
Guelph, July 27th, 1874. 3dtw

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE.
A house on Cardigan street, in the
North Ward, containing four tenements,
yielding an annual rental of 20 per cent.
of the required price. Can be sold in one or two
lots to suit purchasers. Only part of my
required down. Cheap.
Apply to Hart & Spiers, or to James Mor-
rison, on the premises.
Guelph, July 25, 1874. d&wt

BOATS TO LET.
Boats can now be had at from 15c to 25c
per hour and from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day.
Special arrangements made with Electric
parties. The Steamboat will be ready for
use in a few days.
J. O. CLARKE,
Near Dundas Bridge.
Guelph, July 21, 1874. dit

AUCTION SALE
—OF—
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.
Mr. James Armstrong has instructed
W. S. G. Knowles to sell by public auction
at his residence, Macdonnell street, in front
of the Royal Hotel, on TUESDAY, the 4th
day of August, a valuable assortment of
Household Furniture, comprising tables,
cane seats and Windsor chairs, bedsteads,
washstands, toilet sets, looking glasses, cook
and parlour stoves, carpets, delf, etc., also
a quantity of Blacksmith's Tools.
Terms cash and no reserve, as the pro-
prietor is leaving the town.
Sale at one o'clock.
W. S. G. KNOWLES, Auctioneer.
Guelph, July 25, 1874. dw

FOR SALE—A very excellent Build-
ing Lot fronting on Paisley Street and
running through to Oxford Street—about
half an acre. Apply to B. Easton, book-
binder, St. George's Square, Guelph.

10 acres of Land wanted, suitable for
Strawberries, near the town. Apply to the
above.
Guelph, July 15, 1874. dw

TO BORROWERS.
Having invested the \$28,000 recently
advertised, we again have the following
sums, besides others, to lend on farm secu-
rity:
\$500 \$1000
\$600 \$1000
\$600 \$1200
\$600 \$1250
\$2000 \$2000
\$2000 \$2500
LEMON, PETERSON & MACLEAN, dw
Guelph, July 15, 1874.

Guelph Evening Mercury

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 28, 1874.

Town and County News

No Quorum.—There was no meeting of
the Board of Education last evening,
only three of the members being present.

HARRISTON.—We understand that the
agent of the Polar and Tropical Worlds
has taken about seventy orders for that
work in the village of Harriston.

Pic-Nic.—Knox Church Sabbath Sab-
bath School will hold their annual pic-
nic in Mitchell's grove on Tuesday,
August 4th.

THE LECTURE ON COMETS.—The re-
port of this lecture in another column,
will, we are sure, be read with much in-
terest, not only by those who heard it
but also by persons who were deprived
of that pleasure.

BOUND FOR THE OLD COUNTRY.—Mr.
and Mrs. F. W. Stone of Guelph, and
four members of their family; Mr. Robt.
Brydon, Sen., Mr. John Reading and
daughter, of Paisley Block; and Mr.
and Mrs. John Richardson, of Garrafrax,
start on a trip to Britain on Thursday,
by the Allan Line. We wish them bon
voyage and safe return.

PROMOTED.—The Canada Gazette con-
tains the following appointments:—30th
Wellington Battalion of Rifles—To be
Paymaster—Quarter-master Edmund
Harvey, vice Honorary Major Malcolm O.
Gregory, who has been permitted to
retire, retaining his honorary rank to be
Quarter-master, with honorary rank of
Captain, H. H. Swinford, formerly
Captain No. 6 Company, vice Harvey
promoted.

By reference to our 4th page, our base
ball readers will see that the Atlantic
of Brooklyn, N. Y., have been badly de-
feated by the White Stockings of Chi-
cago, by a score of 17 to 4. Our readers
can perhaps judge of the skill employed
by the professional clubs in their cham-
pionship games after the above result,
when our club fared so badly with the
defeated club here on the 13th.

THEM HOLES.—Have we a Street In-
spector?—Have we a Road and Bridge
Committee? If there are any of the
officials in town, we would advise them
to take immediate steps to have the side-
walk repaired on the South side of St.
George's Square. For about two months
several large holes have been allowed to
remain in the sidewalk, and the wonder
is that no one has as yet instituted pro-
ceedings against the Corporation for
having sustained the fracture of a limb.
Such negligence is reprehensible.

THE NECESSITY FOR RECREATION.—In
St. Andrew's Church on Sunday evening,
Rev. Dr. Hogg preached a thought-
ful discourse from the text, "The Sab-
bath was made for man, and not man
for the Sabbath." In the course of his
remarks he referred to the fact which
had been demonstrated by an eminent
Scottish physician, that the waste of the
body each day is not fully made good
by the night's sleep, and that in the
course of a week the spent forces re-
quire the whole of the Sabbath for re-
cuperation. Even with the rest of this
seventh day, there is still a balance to be
provided for; and to properly make up
the deficiency requires about three weeks,
holidays during the year. It is on ac-
count of this latter fact, probably, that
we have to chronicle the annual migra-
tion of our citizens to distant parts; and
perhaps, after all, there is a necessity
also for Press Excursions and the like.

TONTINE POLICIES.—This is what the
Mutual Life says in its annual report:—
in the year 1870, at the request of policy
holders, and under the advice of the
actuary of the company at that time, the
trustees consented to revive, in a modern
and scientific form, the old plan of
Tontine Insurance. Policies were issued
upon the express agreement that no di-
vidends should be paid for a certain
period—ten, fifteen, or twenty years—and
that no surrender value should be allowed;
but that the entire surplus of the whole
policy, together with the reserve, should
upon such as might be forfeited, should
be accumulated for that period and the
whole amount then divided among the
survivors. It was believed that these ac-
cumulations would be very large, and
that the plan must prove very attractive
to persons whose vigor and habits give
reason to expect a long life. It was
felt that, however, by the company to
press the form of policy before the
public, since the executive officers were
never entirely satisfied of the wisdom
and equity of the plan; and the whole
amount assured in upon tontine policies
was comparatively small. But several
cases of great hardship were soon forced
upon the notice of the company. The
plan made it obligatory upon us to forfeit
every such policy absolutely and finally,
if the premiums were not paid up on a
certain day, and left us no discretion to
consider a claim for a surrender value.
This experience satisfied the trustees
that the plan, in its nature, is wholly
outside of the proper range of legitimate
life insurance, being little less than a
contract by which the company binds
itself to execute an unequal wager,
securing the stakes to the winner. In
such a wager as this, the most needy,
whom life insurance is especially designed
to protect, are pretty sure to prove the
losers. Besides, the large accumulations
which tontine insurance gathers in the
hands of a company, at the expense of
those who die or are unable to maintain
their policies, during the tontine period,
offers a strong temptation to wasteful ex-
penditure, which it indulged, must
sooner or later bring disappointment
even to the survivors of those who play
at tontine hazard. For these reasons
the trustees of the company have decided
to discontinue the issue of tontine
policies. dw

War between Russia and China.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE MERCURY

Disastrous Storm in Kentucky.

How Bismarck's Laws Work.
London, July 28th.—The destruction
of property by the floods in Moravia is
immense. At least two hundred houses
have been swept away.
The Times despatches from India say:
—The prospects of crops are most favour-
able notwithstanding the recent floods.
Many deaths from cholera are report-
ed in Burdwan.
London, July 27th.—The amount of
bullion withdrawn from the Bank of
England on balance to-day was £202,000.
Dublin, July 27th.—John Mitchell has
arrived at Cork. He is ill, but will come
to Dublin on Wednesday. The Fenian
Amnesty Association are organizing a
torch light demonstration and banquet
in his honor. Mr. Martin, member of
Parliament for Meath, will resign in favor
of Mitchell.
Paris, July 27.—At the session of the
Assembly to-day, the Committee on Par-
liamentary Initiative made its report on
the resolution for dissolution, recom-
mending that the Assembly proceed to
constitute a Government or dissolve.
After a scene of intense excitement the
debate was adjourned until Wednesday.
Berlin, July 27th.—The Journals here
say that war between Russia and China
is inevitable in consequence of the designs
of the latter upon Kashgar.
Berlin, July 27.—Dr. Janizewski Suf-
ragan, Bishop of Posen, has been ar-
rested for violation of the ecclesiastical laws,
and condemned to 15 months' imprison-
ment.
Berlin, July 28th.—Despatches from
Kissengen announce that the health of
Bismarck is improving, but the wound is yet
unhealed, and the Prince cannot write.
Pittsburg, July 27th.—The total num-
ber of lives lost by the flood is estimated
at 219.
Cincinnati, July 28th.—The storm on
Sunday night was very severe in
Kentucky, and although heavy rain fell
here it was not so heavy as at other
points. Bridges near Lynchburg on
Hillsboro branch of Marietta road have
been washed away. Roads west and
north are not affected. At Sparta on
Louisville short line a southward bound
freight train went through a bridge and
was damaged by water, but no one hurt.
A mile and a half south of Sparta the
engine, baggage car, and one of the
passenger cars of a train went through a
bridge. One man was fatally and three
seriously injured. Five miles further south
five baggage cars were dived. Between
Cincinnati and Walton two bridges are
down. Great damage is reported to corn
crops by being broken down by the wind
in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. The
Locking river early this morning came
down three or four feet higher than the
surface of the Ohio, and shot across the
stream driving drift wood at public land-
ings on this side of the river, tearing coal
boats from moorings and sinking them.
Losses now estimated at \$100,000. Twelve
barges lost, Williamson's Coal Elevator
Co. also lost twelve barges and a float
with twelve cars.
Chicago, July 28th.—The new insur-
ance fire patrols commenced last night.

Local and Other Items.

A Good Crop.—Mr. Henry Armstrong,
con. 4, Morris, cut nine tons of timothy
hay from three acres of land. Mr.
Armstrong will guarantee that the hay
will stand this weight next spring.

LUCK.—Francis Gosling, a private of
the Manitoba Infantry, has become heir
to a fortune of £6,000 per annum, and
the title of "Sir Francis," through the
death of an uncle in Devonshire, Eng.

CHARGE OF FROREY.—A Toronto de-
spatch says that the Police Court on
Monday Albert E. Slater, telegraph
operator at Orangeville, was charged with
forgery by N. W. Weatherston, Manag-
ing Director of the T. G. & B. Railway.
Prisoner is said to have been drunk when
the crime was committed. The case was
remanded.

TOO MANY DOGS.—Hamilton seems to
be troubled with a numerous of the
canine species. The Times says there
are far too many dogs in the city, and at
night they fairly swarm about the streets.
A case of genuine rabies is said to have
occurred the other day.

ACCIDENT.—As Mr. Jas. Brandon and
wife were returning from Wingham on
Friday night, the horses were frightened
by some boys throwing stones. One of
the horses got its leg over the wagon
tongue and commenced kicking and
plunging about, upsetting the wagon
into the ditch. The occupants were
thrown out. Mrs. Brandon receiving a
severe bruise on her side.

NEW TANNING PROCESS.—A London
paper has been shown a new invention
for tanning leather, and pronounces it a
success. The article used in the process
is a composition which demands the use
of no bark, which is an important item
just now when bark is an exceedingly
scarce article, compared with what it was
a few years ago. It saves space, for no
ground is required as now for the storage
of bark, and the article itself is not bulky.
Then, the great danger from fire now
risked, entirely avoided.

ACCIDENT AT A RAISING.—William
McDonald, son of Mr. Robert McDonald,
con. 1, Grey, while assisting at a raising
on the farm of Mr. E. Bryan, was seri-
ously injured by one of the beams falling
upon him, covering half his body, and
pinning him to the earth. Upon being
extricated it was discovered that he was
fearfully bruised along the left side of
the back and the left leg. The accident
resulted from a foolish attempt of one
side to run up a bent before the other
side was prepared to assist.

STEAMSHIP LOST.—The steamer *Guate-
malta* struck on the north-east point of
Watling's Island, on Thursday the 16th
inst., at midnight, being six days out
from New York, and it was reported as
the *City of Havana*, which brought this
intelligence, was leaving; that there were
twelve feet of water in the hold, and the
vessel certain to become a total wreck.
The cargo was mostly saved. No pas-
sengers were aboard. Five of the crew
of the *Guatemala* took passage on the
City of Havana for New York.

Anselm Rothschild, of Vienna, is dead.
A fire in Brantford on Sunday destroyed
\$15,000 worth of property.
Cook's sash and door factory, Clinton,
was destroyed by fire on Saturday last.
A biscuit and confectionary manufac-
tory on a large scale is to be established
in Seaford.
Thursday, August 6th, is to be a civic
holiday in Stratford.
H. M. S. *Spartan* sailed on Saturday
from Halifax, to watch over the interests
of Canadian fishermen in the Newfoundland
fisheries.
The Halifax Rowing Club have decid-
ed that George Brown challenge Sadler,
the English champion sculler, to a five
mile race, with one turn. The amount
named in the challenge is five hundred
pounds.
The Cleveland Club offers a special
premium of \$10,000 to Goldsmith Maid
any other horse that will beat the
Maid's record of 2.16 at the coming meet-
ing of the Club on July 28.
On Friday night some burglars broke
into Mr. Chas. Durrant's store, in West
Flamboro, and carried off about \$1,000
worth of dry goods. A reward of \$50
has been offered.
A thunder storm which passed over
Sarnia on Sunday did considerable dam-
age. Several houses and barns were
struck by lightning during the storm.
The spire of the Presbyterian Church
was struck, and also otherwise injured.
Several of the Montreal Telegraph Co's
poles were shattered. The back streets
of the town in many places were flooded,
carrying away sidewalks, etc.
At a private party, given in his Lon-
don house during the past week, Sir
Charles Wheatstone exhibited some curi-
ous electrical experiments for the amuse-
ment of his friends, which would seem
to throw some light on certain so-
called "spiritualistic manifestations."
In a dark room, by a stamp of his foot,
Sir Charles produced a brilliant crown
of electric light in mid-air, while musical
instruments seemed to be played by in-
visible hands—whereas the sounds really
came from an adjoining room, in which
the players sat—and were made to ap-
pear to be produced by the instruments
before the spectators by an ingenious
contrivance.
The friends of temperance have a new
foe to grapple with in the drug chloral,
which has recently come into use as a
sedative agent. It is now sold by tons
every week in London; and Baron Lei-
big states that one German house alone
makes and sells a ton a week. The Lon-
don *Lancet* and London *Spectator* both
call attention to the enormous consump-
tion of this drug, asserting that but a
small proportion of that sold is prescribed
as a medicine; and that its use is a
popular vice, mostly among women; and
that it is doing more harm than alcohol.
Once addicted to it, the victim will soon
reach such a state as to pass life in a con-
tented semi-drunken stupor. The use
of either chloral nor opium is
confined to either England or Germany.
There are those among us who would
turn in horror from the use of whiskey,
but who flatter themselves that their
weak nerves require the quieting effect
of this new and respectable sedative.
Something should be done to stop
or limit its sale before it gains the mastery
over that large class of women among
us who have nothing to do but to kill
time.

Cometary Worlds.

(Owing to the press of other matter
this report has been unavoidably crowded
out until to-day.)
A large and intelligent audience as-
sembled in the lecture room of the Bap-
tist Church on Friday evening to listen
to a lecture by Rev. Dr. Davidson, on
the subject of "Cometary Worlds." The
lecture was delivered under the auspices
of the Y. M. C. A., and the President,
Dr. McGuire, occupied the chair, and in-
troduced the lecturer in a few well-chosen
remarks.
Diagrams of the principal comets
spoken of had been drawn on a black-
board which stood on the platform, and
added greatly to a proper understanding
of the subject. The following is the
substance of the lecturer's remarks:—
Comets have in every age of the world
been regarded as objects of interest and
astonishment, and no generation of men
has ever lived without seeing a greater or
less number of these aerial and erratic
wanderers. The wonderful characteris-
tics which mark the flight of comets
through space, the suddenness with
which they blaze forth, their exceeding
velocity and terrific appearance, and their
eccentric motions towards the sun, have
rendered these bodies objects of terror in
all ages. They perform their revolutions
in orbits of every possible eccentricity;
they come up from below the plane of
the elliptic or plunge downwards towards
the sun from above, sweep swiftly round
this centre, and with incredible velocity
wing their flight into the regions of space,
never to reappear to human vision.
The word Comet literally signifies a
hairy star, being usually accompanied by
a train which has the appearance of
luminous hair. The luminous point of
the comet is called the nucleus, which,
with the so called hair surrounding it,
constitutes the head of the comet. Many
comets have no nucleus, but present only
a nebulous mass gradually increasing in
density toward the centre. Indeed,
comets vary in shape from those of a
gaseous or vapory medium to those
which have a well defined nucleus.
The appearance of comets is not pecu-
liar to our times. In 1372 B.C. there ap-
peared a comet surpassing the sun himself
in brilliancy. Seneca mentions that B.C.
60 a comet was seen during an eclipse
of the sun; he notes that it was very
near the sun. There have been comets
whose extreme brightness has rendered
them visible in broad daylight. The
comet of 1652 is said to have appeared
as large as the moon to the naked eye.
Even the comet of 1843 was seen in the
broad light of day a little eastward of
the sun. It resembled a white cloud of
great density. At Pernambuco, in South
America, on the 4th of March, this comet
presented a golden hue, and was so
brilliant as to throw a strong light upon
the sea. The orbit or the periodic time
of this comet was not known; although
it was thought that it appeared for the
first time in 1668. When this comet
passed its perihelion on the 27th Febru-
ary, it almost grazed the surface of the
sun, and its brilliancy was such as to
induce the belief that it was at a white
heat throughout its entire extent.
By the calculation of Mons. Arago,
the eminent French astronomer, the solar
system should contain 7,000,000 comets.
Since the commencement of the Christ-
ian era the number observed has been
between 700 and 800, of which only 137
have been seen since the birth of Christ.
The question, Do comets shine by their
own light or by the light from the sun?
is a most important one. Both Herschel
and Schroeter were of opinion that the
wonderful comet of 1811 shone by its own
light, and on this hypothesis the rapid
changes in the brightness of the nucleus,
and the contractions of the tail, have
been reconciled. Stars have been seen
through the tail of a comet which con-
tained 50,000 miles of cometary matter;
and it is thought improbable that so
transparent a material could reflect rays
of light. Halley's comet is supposed to
have turned into vapor at its perihelion,
so attempted was it. On the other
hand, some comets are said to have
quite eclipsed stars in the same line
of vision, and also have appeared as
spots on the sun's disc.
We have fine only to notice this
evening the most important which have
appeared since the 17th century of the
Christian era.
THE COMET OF 1680.
This tremendous comet appeared to
descend from the region immediately
above the ecliptic, and direct its flight in
such a manner that it must inevitably
plunge into the sun. This was not the
case, however. Increasing in velocity
as it neared the sun to within a distance
of its surface of a sixth part of the sun's
radius, sweeping round the sun at the
rate of a million miles an hour, it com-
menced throwing off a train of light or
tail which extended 100,000 miles.
Then it swept away into space. Dr.
Halley estimated that when at its perihelion
this comet was 13,000,000 miles distant from
the sun. In passing through its southern node
this comet came within 440,000 miles of
the orbit of the earth, and had the
earth been in that part of its orbit their
mutual gravitation would have caused a
change in the plane of the earth's orbit,
and in the length of one year; and if a
large body were to strike the earth—a
thing by no means impossible—the
shock might reduce our planet to its
original chaos. It is conjectured that
the period of this comet is 575 years,
and that it appeared in 1106, in the
reign of Henry I. of England, as well as
in the year 530, and in the year 44, B.C.,
at the time of the assassination of
Julius Caesar. The head of this comet
was computed to be ten times as large as
the moon, and its tail extended
over 100,000 miles in length. Whis-
ton supposes that it was this comet
which caused the universal deluge in
Noah's time by a too near approach
to the earth; and he also thought that
this comet would destroy the world at
last; but for such ideas there is little
foundation.
HALLEY'S COMET, 1682.
This comet, in its aphelion, was
3,400,000 miles from the sun; Halley