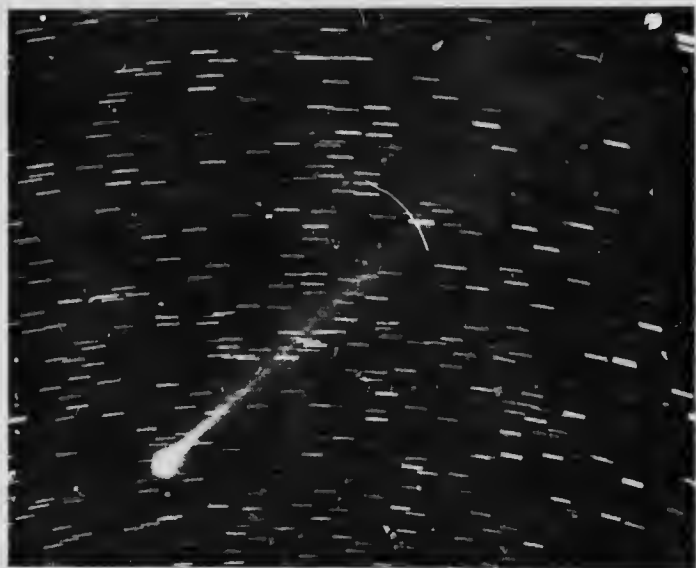


Hideous human faces with bristling hair and beards, crosses, crowns and other shapes are said to have appeared in the sky as comets. But, as we read these descriptions to-day, we know that they emanated from fevered imaginations.



COMET C 1903 (BORRELLY).

In appearance comets are of many different shapes. Generally they are made up of a nucleus, coma and tail, but many want some of these three parts. Often they are only a nebulous mass, but are recognized as comets by their approach towards the sun. Sometimes the nucleus is a thin gaseous substance, for faint stars can be seen right through it. Sometimes it is sufficiently dense enough to hide them entirely from